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Sindhu loses to Pornpawee in pre-quarterfinals of the China Open
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NEARBY



Alka Lamba disqualified from Delhi Assembly

NEW DELHI Rebel AAP Delhi MLA Alka Lamba was on Thursday disqualified by Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel under the anti-defection law. The Speaker took the decision based on a disqualification petition moved by AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj.

CITY ► PAGE 2

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FRIDAY REVIEW ► 8 PAGES
(TABLOID)

'Hug each Kashmiri, build new paradise'

Prime Minister Modi sees attempts from across the border to spread violence in the State

STAFF REPORTER NASHIK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said it was time to build a new Kashmir after the scrapping of Article 370, and the country should unite as one towards this.

"Earlier, the slogan used to be *Kashmir hamara hai* [Kashmir is ours]. This must now change to *Naya Kashmir banana hai* [We must make a new Kashmir]. We have to once again build a paradise [in Kashmir]... hug each Kashmiri," he said at the last rally of the Mahajanadesh Yatra that was launched by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on August 1.

The scrapping of Article 370 would help to remove Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh from the vicious cycle



New slogan: Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at a rally in Nashik on Thursday. • VIVEK BENDRE

of militancy, violence and corruption. "We had promised the country that we will make fresh attempts to resolve the issues affecting Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. I can happily say today that the country is working

towards fulfilling those dreams." It was not the decision of one government, but the wish of 1.3 crore Indians, he said.

The first 100 days of the government, he said, were marked by "promise, perfor-

mance and delivery". "In the first 100 days, we have given a clear picture of what is to come in the next five years."

Attempts were being made from across the border to spread violence in Kashmir and the Opposition was trying to gain political mileage from an issue which was for the larger good of the country, he observed.

Swipe at Pawar

Taking a swipe at Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar for his remarks on the scrapping of Article 370, Mr. Modi said, "I can understand the Congress's confusion. But Sharad Pawar? A leader as experienced as him makes wrong statements just to gain votes and it hurts me. Mr. Pawar likes our neighbouring coun-

try. The whole of Maharashtra, India and even the world knows where is the factory of terrorism located."

Mr. Modi praised the Maharashtra government, led by Mr. Fadnavis. He said crores of people had blessed the Chief Minister during the course of his 4,000-km State-wide tour, and he had given a stable government despite the BJP not having full majority. He criticised those opposing the national animal disease control programme. He said, "Cattle don't vote." The programme aimed to vaccinate 50 crore livestock across the country, which the Opposition had called a political move.

TRUST JUDICIARY: PM ► PAGE 12

NO SCOPE FOR THIRD-PARTY
ROLE: INDIA ► PAGE 13

5 leaders, including Mirwaiz, sign bonds to secure release

They undertake not to indulge in any political activity after they are freed



On alert: A soldier maintaining vigil at the commercial hub of the old city in Srinagar on Thursday. • GETTY IMAGES

VIJAITA SINGH
SRINAGAR

At least five political leaders in the Kashmir Valley have signed bonds to secure their release, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

The detentions were made under Section 107 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC) and the politicians who signed the bonds gave an undertaking that they would not indulge in any political activity after their release.

Those who signed the bonds include moderate Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, two former legislators of the National Conference, one former legislator of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and a Peoples Conference leader.

The Jammu & Kashmir Assembly was dissolved by Governor Satyapal Malik on November 21 last year.

"If a person detained under Section 107 of the Cr.PC signs a bond and then violates it, legal proceedings,

including arrest, can be initiated. The prohibited activities include giving political speeches," said the official.

Since August 5, when Union Home Minister Amit Shah moved two Bills in the Rajya Sabha to revoke the special status of Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 and bifurcate the State into Union Territories, several leaders were placed under detention and house arrest.

36 detainees stay firm

The government-owned Centaur Hotel in Srinagar was turned into a subsidiary jail, and as of now, at least 36 leaders, including the former bureaucrat-turned-politician Shah Faesal, are lodged there. None of the detainees there, including Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Lone and PDP youth wing leader Waheed Para, has agreed to sign the bonds.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

SCHOOLS TURN RECREATION
CENTRES ► PAGE 13

Protest armada



Fears over livelihood: Country-boat fishermen staging a protest at Morepannai in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu on Thursday against the laying of pipelines for seawater intake for the Uppur thermal power plant. • L. BALACHANDRAN

In liquidity push, PSBs plan 'loan melas' in 400 districts

Customers can take any type of loan: Finance Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

In a bid to dispel the notion that only the banks have liquidity and it is not flowing to the NBFCs and the customers, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday announced that all scheduled banks would hold large gatherings in 400 districts, where customers can take any type of loan they want from the banks and the NBFCs partnering with them.

The Finance Ministry, in a release, said banks had entered into 14 tie-ups with



Nirmala Sitharaman.
• SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

NBFCs for co-originating loans, with another 36 tie-ups in the pipeline.

She said no MSME-stressed loan would be classified as non-performing as-

set until March 31, 2020.

"The perception is that the banks have the liquidity, and this is not going to the NBFCs and from there to the end-customers," she said at a press conference, after meeting the heads of public sector banks. "We have decided that in 200 districts, between now and September 29, there will be gatherings organised by banks of the NBFCs they have partnered with," she added.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

GST COUNCIL MAY REVIEW RATES
FOR AUTO SECTOR ► PAGE 15

'Qualitative change in attitude of hospitals necessary'

Panel awards ₹20 lakh compensation

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

The State consumer disputes redressal forum has ordered a city hospital to pay ₹20 lakh to a couple as compensation for medical negligence which led to the death of their son 16 years ago.

"Awarding compensation to bring about a qualitative change in the attitude of hospitals for providing services to human beings is necessary," observed the consumer forum while hearing a complaint of medical negligence against Shanti Mukand Hospital in east Delhi.

The forum ruled that the

hospital failed to provide "effective treatment" to the patient, which led to his death in 2003, and directed it to pay the sum to his parents, B.D. Sharma and Om Sharma. The hospital was directed to compensate the complainants within two months for the "suffering, mental pain and agony" caused to them.

"Human touch is necessary; that is their [hospital's] code of conduct and that is their duty. The present case is not a complicated surgery or a case of transplant of limbs and organs in the human body," the forum held.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

Transport strike leaves commuters stranded

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Commuters were left stranded on Thursday as several transport unions organised a day-long strike in the Capital. Several schools re-

mained shut and transportation hubs like the New Delhi railway station and ISBT at Kashmere Gate bore a deserted look as autorickshaws, private buses, app-based cabs and other taxis

stayed off the roads.

The strike was called to protest the "hefty" fines being levied under the amended Motor Vehicles Act.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 4

Keeladi findings traceable to 6th century BCE: report

Carbon dating suggests that the cultural deposits may be 300 years older than believed

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN
CHENNAI

In a major turning point in the cultural historiography of the ancient Sangam Age, the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department (TNAD) has stated that the cultural deposits unearthed during excavations at Keeladi in Sivaganga district could be safely dated to a period between 6th century BCE and 1st century CE.

This is the first time the date has been officially announced by the TNAD. The new findings in the report, released on Thursday by



Hoary past: One of the samples collected at the depth of 353 cm goes back to 580 BCE. • G. MOORTHY

Minister for Tamil Culture and Archaeology K. Pandiarajan here, placed the Keeladi artefacts about 300

years earlier than previously believed – 3rd century BCE.

One of the six samples

collected at the depth of 353 cm and sent for carbon dating test in the U.S. "goes back to 580 BCE," Commissioner of Archaeology T. Udayachandran said.

The report titled, 'Keeladi-An Urban Settlement of Sangam Age on the Banks of River Vaigai', was published by the TNAD. The results from the fourth excavations suggested that the "second urbanisation [the first being Indus] of the Vaigai plains happened in Tamil Nadu around 6th century BCE as it happened in the Gangetic plains."

The report also spelt the site as Keeladi as against the erstwhile widely used Keezhadi. The recent scientific dates obtained for the Keeladi findings pushed back the date of the Tamil-Brahmi script to another century, i.e., 6th century BCE. "These results clearly ascertained that they attained literacy or learned the art of writing as early as 6th century BCE," the report stated.

It said no object of worship was found at the site.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

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IN BRIEF



LIC celebrates its 64th year of incorporation

NEW DELHI
The Life Insurance Corporation of India on Thursday said that in its 64th year of incorporation, it had assets of over ₹31,11,847 crore with Life Fund to the tune of ₹28,28,320 crore while it started with an initial capital of ₹5 crore in 1956. LIC said it started with 168 offices and today with over 4,851 offices, it has over one lakh employees.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	66	Gurgaon	78
Ghaziabad	61	Faridabad	38
Greater Noida	63	Noida	51
Good	Satisfactory	Moderate	
0-50	51-100	101-200	
Poor	Very poor	Severe	
201-300	301-400	>401	

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

Delhi govt. to release booklet on Guru Nanak

NEW DELHI
Delhi government's Art, Culture and Language Department announced on Thursday that it would be releasing a booklet on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak on the occasion of his 550th birth anniversary. Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said the Delhi govt will publish the book in three languages which are Punjabi, Hindi and English.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: A round-table discussion on 'Perspectives on India-China Relations and Trends in Indo-Pacific Development' by various speakers at Conference Room - II, India International Centre (IIC), 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Music: Sindhi Academy Delhi presents Yaaden, an evening of old and classic Hindi film songs and ghazals by Delhi-based singer, Uma Lalla. Narration by Pavan Naidu at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Tell-tale Marks", an exhibition of paintings by Sabya Sachi Ghosh at Visual Arts Gallery, IHC, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Apparently Real", a solo paintings exhibition by Sabya Sachi Ghosh at Visual Arts Gallery, IHC, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Screening: "A Midsummer's Ok-inawan Dream" a Japanese film will be screened with English subtitles at The Japan Foundation, 5A Ring Road, Lalpat Nagar IV, 6:30 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@delhi@thehindu.co.in)

Alka Lamba disqualified from Delhi Assembly

Speaker's decision based on plea moved by AAP leader

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Rebel AAP Delhi MLA Alka Lamba was on Thursday disqualified by Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel under anti-defection law.

"The disqualification of Ms. Alka Lamba takes effect from 06.09.2019... Consequently the Chandni Chowk Assembly Constituency seat has fallen vacant," an official statement from the Delhi Assembly said. The Speaker took the decision based on a disqualification petition moved by AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj.

Flip-flop

On September 6, Ms. Lamba had tweeted that she had resigned from the "primary membership of AAP" and urged party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal to accept her resignation. On the same day, she had also said that



Alka Lamba

she will be joining the Congress and met its party president Sonia Gandhi.

However, later, Ms. Lamba said that she had never given a "written resignation" to AAP and did not take a Congress membership and she was still part of AAP.

"When one resigns from the party from which the person has been elected, the person can be disqualified under anti-defection law," the Assembly Speaker told *The Hindu*. He did not comment on whether Ms. Lamba

has joined the Congress.

Congress ticket

For the past couple of months, Ms. Lamba has been maintaining the stand that she will contest on a Congress ticket if the party approaches her, else she will contest as an Independent from Chandni Chowk.

In December 2018, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had sought disciplinary action against Ms. Lamba for being at the forefront of criticism against a demand by some AAP MLAs to recall the Bharat Ratna conferred on late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

This rift between Ms. Lamba and the party has been growing ever since, but she has not formally resigned from the party. She has been vocal against AAP for the last couple of months and has not been called for party meetings.

Former Jharkhand Congress president Ajoy Kumar joins AAP

'Party will decide whether my role will be in Jharkhand or Delhi'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Former Jharkhand Congress chief Ajoy Kumar on Thursday joined the Aam Aadmi Party at a function in the party headquarters here.

Addressing a press conference, senior AAP leader and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said, "Dr. Ajoy Kumar's journey, both as a police officer and in politics, has been remarkable... It is very heartening that today he decided to join the Aam Aadmi Party. We warmly welcome him."

Mr. Kumar, a former IPS officer, did not comment whether he will contest in the upcoming Assembly elections in Jharkhand or Delhi. In August, he had re-

signed from the post of Congress president of Jharkhand.

"I have just joined the party, we will decide whether my role will be in Jharkhand or Delhi," Mr. Kumar told *The Hindu* when asked about his role in the party.

Mr. Kumar said that he was impressed by the work done by the AAP government in Delhi and had known senior AAP leaders including Mr. Sisodia for a long time.

Alternative politics

"Manish ji used to say that ordinary people who have no connection with politics and who do not have relatives or family in politics, should come forward and

participate in today's politics. The idea of alternative politics should be strengthened and new people should be welcomed for this," he said.

"The changes brought by the Delhi government in the field of education and health are revolutionary. I am so happy to see the work done for 24x7 water and power by the AAP-led government," he added.

Mr. Kumar met Arvind Kejriwal and the Chief Minister later said in a tweet, "I welcome former IPS officer and popular leader of Jharkhand Dr Ajoy Kumar to the Aam Aadmi Party. His joining will strengthen our struggle to create a corruption-free, prosperous India."

New norms proposed for trade, storage licences

Subcommittee formed by North civic body suggests changes to simplify the policy

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A subcommittee formed in 2017 to look into the general trade and storage licence policy of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation submitted its report to the Standing Committee on Thursday.

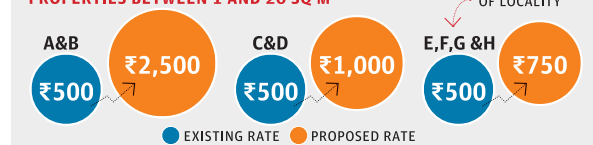
Wide-ranging changes to help with the simplification of the policy have been recommended. The suggestions are likely to be passed in the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Major recommendations include, reducing the number of documents required from 11 to four, said Deputy

EASY TRADING

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED REDUCED FROM 11 TO 4
1. Proof of legal occupancy | 2. Photograph of establishment with geolocation | 3. ID proof | 4. Site plan (self-attested)

PROPOSED HIKE IN RATES FOR PROPERTIES BETWEEN 1 AND 20 SQ M



Chairperson of the Standing Committee Vipin Malhotra. Now, traders applying for store licences will be required to submit a proof of tenancy, ID proof, a photograph of the establishment with geolocation and a self-

attested site plan which may be hand-drawn, said Mr. Malhotra. A declaration inbuilt into the online application form will also be required.

The subcommittee has also recommended the rates of the licence for different

categories of property. Councillors of the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party, who were also part of the subcommittee, welcomed the proposals but opposed the increase in rates. Justifying the increase, Mr. Malhotra said that various costs involved in the drawing up of multiple documents earlier would now be reduced.

The entire process including, fee payment will be online, thus, reducing chances of corruption and "licence raj" said Mr. Malhotra. Measures taken to streamline the process include curtailing of inspection powers of licence inspectors.

Green tribunal directs DIAL to take steps to curb noise pollution

Measure and display noise level prescribed for aircraft: NGT

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) to measure and display the prescribed noise levels for aircraft at the international airport.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel took note of a notice issued by the Airports Authority of India, pertaining to the use of reverse thrust used by pilots while landing.

"We suggest that DIAL not only measure and maintain the prescribed noise levels but also display the same in public domain," the Bench said.

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea which alleged that residents living near the



sures for reducing noise pollution.

Green belt

The tribunal in its order had said, "The official respondents shall ensure providing of a green belt around the boundary wall of the airport, while keeping the safety and security both in mind. The plantations shall be of the species which would only grow to the permissible height or would be maintained at the permissible height only."

The DIAL, however, informed the green panel that necessary steps for curbing noise pollution were taken according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on July 6 last year.

DDU College hostellers stage protest

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Hostellers at Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College in Dwarka staged a protest on Wednesday night that continued till Thursday afternoon over poor living conditions. The protest was dispersed, without getting any assurance, after alleged threats from the administration.

Students who wished to remain anonymous said that the outburst was a consequence of months of complaints that had gone unheeded. Their major issues include, problems with the quality of food and water, strict curfew timings and unavailability of Wi-Fi. Students were not given basic facilities. These problems allegedly led to health problems among students, they alleged.

Spectacular aerial photos of China's scenery



Picturesque aerial views across the country are to some degree a testimony to China's extraordinary progress in building ecological civilization, as China will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China this year.

Aerial photo taken on Oct. 30, 2018 shows larches at the Qinglongwan reservoir in Ningguo City, east China's Anhui Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Shi Yalei)



Aerial photo taken on April 10, 2019 shows the scenery of the Mutianyu Great Wall in Beijing, capital of China. (Xinhua/Wang Jianhua)



Aerial photo shows people airing the newly-harvested wild jujube in Yinan County, east China's Shandong Province, Sept. 6, 2018. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Du Yubao)

Aerial photo taken on March 28, 2019 shows a view of the Qutang Gorge, one of the Three Gorges on the Yangtze River, in southwest China's Chongqing. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Wang Quanchao)



Aerial photo taken on Nov. 3, 2018 shows farmers airing rice in Paogong Village of Hengyang City, central China's Hunan Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Cao Zhengping)



March 26, 2017 shows tourists resting at the Fenghuanggou scenic spot in Nanchang County, east China's Jiangxi Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Wan Xiang)

AUTUMN

SUMMER

Aerial photo taken on May 23, 2019 shows a kelp farm near the coast of Daqin Island of Changdao County, Yantai, east China's Shandong Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Zhu Zheng)



SPRING

WINTER

Aerial photo taken on Feb. 4, 2018 shows a police car patrolling on a road in Meihua Mountain, southwest China's Guizhou Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Tao Liang)



Aerial photo taken on June 13, 2019 shows the view of Guanshan Grassland at Longxian County in Baoji, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Tao Ming)

Aerial photo taken on July 23, 2019 shows the pasture scenery in West Ujimqin Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Liu Lei)



Aerial photo taken on Nov. 17, 2018 shows the snow scenery of the Mount Huashan scenic area in northwest China's Shaanxi Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Tao Ming)



Aerial photo taken on Dec. 9, 2018 shows a winter scenery of the Wuzhen scenic area in Tongxiang, Zhejiang Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Xu Yu)



Delhi HC refuses to set aside DUSU poll results

NEW DELHI
The Delhi HC has refused to set aside the results of the recently held elections of Delhi University Students' Union on a plea by several law students who were allegedly prevented from casting their votes. The court said no direction can be issued for setting aside the election at this stage as the polls have already been held and asked the Grievance Redressal Cell to act in accordance with the J.M. Lyngdoh Committee's report on the complaints received by the students within 24 hours. PTI

Foreigner held at IGI with 5 kg gold worth ₹1.9 cr.

NEW DELHI
A foreign national was apprehended at the Delhi airport while on his way to Mumbai for allegedly smuggling six gold bars weighing 5 kg and worth ₹1.9 crore, CISF officials said on Thursday. Pucheng Yao arrived at Terminal-3 of the IGI airport from Hong Kong by an Air India flight on Wednesday.

Constable dismissed from service for raping minor

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A minor girl lodged a complaint alleging that a constable posted at New Usmanpur police station raped her, following which he was arrested and dismissed from service, the police said on Thursday.
A senior police officer said that constable Vishram was arrested and dismissed from service. The girl's statement was recorded after information was received on the matter around noon on Thursday, they said.
A case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was registered, the police added.

Wanted criminal held in murder case

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 31-year-old criminal, with a bounty of ₹50,000 on his head, was arrested for allegedly killing a woman in Dwarka in 2018. He is involved in eight criminal cases, the police said.
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said that the accused identified as Jagdeep Deswal alias Sonu had allegedly killed Kamlesh, live-in partner of Rajiv alias Monu Ishapur. The latter had allegedly killed Jagdeep's brother Sandeep alias Mental.
The police said that in May 2018, Sandeep was allegedly killed by Monu over a land deal. Sandeep's family believed that Monu's partner Kamlesh was involved in the murder after which they decided to avenge the murder and eliminate him.
The police claimed to have arrested Jagdeep following a tip-off from Dwarka Sector 6 where he had come to meet his friend to collect money to move to a safe place.

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THE HINDU

Two khadi silk saris each for women staff on facilitation desk

Policewomen allotted the garment may not be transferred frequently, says circular

SAURABH TRIVEDI NEW DELHI

Increasing demand for khadi silk saris for women staff on facilitation desk duty has pushed Delhi Police to cap the allotment of the garment at two each for two personnel at each police station.
The proposal for procurement of khadi silk saris has been sent to the police headquarters.
A September 13 circular, issued by DCP (provision and logistics) to all districts/units of Delhi Police, mentions: "The life span of these saris is two years and two saris per individual to be issued."

Procurement process
The process of procurement of 836 saris will take three-four months, thereafter the current requirement of all district units will be fully



Proposal for procurement of khadi silk saris has been sent to the police headquarters. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

met, states the circular.
"The police districts/units may issue the sari to only those women officials who have been assigned the duties to work on the facilitation desk for a longer period, at least one year," the circular reads.
It further states that the staff posted on the facilitation desk may not be transferred frequently, since the saris cannot be handed over to another officer.
'Justification required'
"The districts/units should send their annual requirement of khadi silk saris to provisioning and logistics unit, in the Annual Indent of Clothing Articles with full justification. It will help con-

solidated procurement and subsequently issued well in time to each district/units in future," the circular reads.
The circular also specifies that the saris may be issued to the women police staff after making proper entry in the 'clothing articles issue book' maintained by all districts/units, so that the article can be reissued to the staff only after the expiry of its life span.
A senior police officer said that they are ensuring that all police units and police stations get adequate supply of saris. "It is not a rule or guideline that a new sari will be issued only after two years. It can be replaced at any time according to the demand. We cannot spend government money exorbitantly from day one. We have ensured no facility gets misused," said the officer.

Five held for fraudulent bank withdrawals

They stole cheques from courier boys

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Five persons, including two women, were arrested for allegedly withdrawing money from banks through forged cheques after stealing bags of courier delivery boys, the police said on Thursday.
Two courier delivery boys lodged separate complaints at the Okhla Industrial Area police station claiming their bags containing various parcels, including a few cheques, were stolen from their vehicles when they went inside offices for delivery.

"During investigation, it came to our notice that the stolen cheques had been encashed from different bank accounts in Delhi, Ghaziabad and Moradabad," DCP (Southeast) Chinmoy Biswal said. Sunny (25) and Jyoti were arrested from Ghaziabad and Haldwani respectively. Based on their information, Mahesh Singh (58), Kishan Lal Yadav (54) and Chanchal (32) were also arrested, the DCP said.
They used to erase the original name with the help of a chemical and type the name of a member of their team, the DCP said.

DELHI ☀️ Timings

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20			
RISE	06:08	SET	18:21
RISE	22:18	SET	11:19
SATURDAY, SEPT. 21			
RISE	06:09	SET	18:19
RISE	23:04	SET	12:17
SUNDAY, SEPT. 22			
RISE	06:09	SET	18:18
RISE	23:57	SET	13:16

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	33	25
Safdarjang	33	25
Palam	33	25

Delhi Palam Today
33°C A hazy morning lies ahead. Day will be warm with a partly cloudy sky. Short spells of light rain are likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
32°C A warm and humid day is likely. Sky will remain cloudy. Short spells of light rain will affect a few places.

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WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
S&T Department
TENDER NOTICE
Sr. DSTE/CO/Kota, for and on behalf of the President of Union of India, invites e-tenders against Tender No. KOTA/S&T/Sig/2019/02/R1, KOTA/S&T/2018/45D/R2. Due date to open mentioned below. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Tender No.:** KOTA/S&T/SIG/2019/02/R1. **Name of work:** Replacement of old and overaged Ground frame by push button operating panel at POLB of LC gate No. 21 (between VMA - THUR) on Kota Division. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 11,40,551.45. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 22,900/-. **Tender No.:** KOTA/S&T/Sig/2018/45-D/R2. **Name of work:** Hiring of Pick up van for day to day maintenance of Signalling gears in the section of JE/Sig/DARA on Kota Division. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 18,47,703.60. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 37,000/-.
For both the above Tenders:- Last Date & Time of submission and opening of tender: 15.00 Hrs. on 24.10.2019. The tenders can be viewed at website www.irops.gov.in. The tenderer/bidders must have Class III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate in E-Tendering. Also should have valid GSTIN.
रेलवे यात्रा के दौरान सिकाराव हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर संपर्क करें।

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GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
REVENUE DEPARTMENT (HQ)
5, SHAM NATH MARG, DELHI- 110054

F. No.1(90)/DDMA(HQ)/Appoint/PC/2014/304 Dated :11/9/19

Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) intends to hire eligible individuals for the following posts, on contractual basis for period upto 28.02.2020

Name of post:-Project Officer	No. of Posts:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">DDMA(HQ) - 01District Shahdara - 01District South - 01District South-west - 01District Central - 01District North - 01 Salary Offered : Rs. 25,000/- per month consolidated Age: Not above 35 years as on date of publication of Advertisement Essential Qualifications : Master Degree in Social Work / Disaster Management / Town Planning / Social Sc. from a recognised University Institution Desired Qualifications : Should have good oral and writing skills, should have good communication skill. Experience :One year experience in Disaster Management
Name of post:-Project Coordinator	No. Of Posts:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">DDMA(HQ) -02District Shahdara -01District North-West -01District North-East -01 Salary Offered : Rs. 20,000/- per month consolidated Age: Not above 32 years as on date of publication of Advertisement Essential Qualifications : Graduate in Social Work / Disaster Management / Town Planning / Social Sc. from a recognised University Institution.

The application form & other relevant details could be viewed /downloaded from <http://ddma.delhi.gov.in>. Duly filled application in the prescribed Proforma with self attested scanned copies of relevant documents & forms may be uploaded to ddma.delhi@nic.in not later than 07.10.2019. Applications received after the due date will not be accepted. Applicants may apply district wise posts specifying their preferences and applications can be given for maximum 02 districts. However, selected candidates are liable to be transferred any of the districts or at Hqrs. as and when required at the direction of competent authority.

(P.C. Thakur)
SDM(DDMA)
DIP/SHABDARTH/0678/19-20

3 held for cheating actor of ₹3 lakh

Accused impersonated Australian tax officials: police

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Three persons have been arrested for allegedly duping actor Isha Sharvani, an NRI living in Australia, of ₹3 lakh by pretending to be Australian tax officials, the police said on Thursday.
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Crime) Anyesh Roy said that the accused have been identified as Bhanuj Berry (24), Puneet Chadha (34) and Rishabh Khanna (23).



Isha Sharvani

Tax returns violation

Ms. Sharvani informed the police that she received calls allegedly from the Australian tax office.
"The caller told her that there were some violations in her tax returns and the Australian government had issued a warrant for her arrest. The caller took the details of her tax accountant, including the phone number," Mr. Roy said.
The actor then received another call in which the

caller claimed to be from her accountant's office. The caller allegedly told her that there was an error while filing her tax returns and they didn't tell her about the intimations sent by the Australian government. They said they would reimburse the amount, AUD 5,700 as she was not at fault, the police claimed.
"The accused persons intimidated the victim into transferring money to them through Western Union [3,500 AUD] and RIA Money Transfer [2,500 AUD]. They

stayed with her on the call for more than three hours until the transaction was over," Mr. Roy said, adding that she later realised that she had been duped after which she approached the police.

Transaction details
During investigation, the police sought the transaction details from Western Union and RIA Money Transfer and reached the accused after which they were arrested.

The police said that the accused used to call up people in Australia, pretending to be from the Australian tax office and threatened to arrest them for tax violations. The accused have allegedly duped more than 100 people, they said.
The accused told the police that they were operating from a fake call centre in Vikaspuri. Chadha is an MBA while Berry has studied BCom from School of Open Learning and Khanna is a final-year student of BBA, the police said.

Five foreign nationals arrested at IGI for smuggling drugs

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

In a joint operation with Delhi Police, the Customs Department busted a module of international drug cartel and arrested five foreign nationals trying to smuggle drugs into the country.
Joint Commissioner of Customs Anubha Sinha said they had received a tip-off that an international gang of smugglers was attempting to

smuggle suspicious material into India.

Tip-off

"On September 14, five Afghan nationals arrived at T3 of IGI Airport from Kandahar-Kabul-Delhi flight. Based on specific Intelligence, we came to know that these five passengers had ingested capsules containing a narcotic substance," Mr. Sinha said.
The passengers were in-

tercepted in a joint operation by officers of the air intelligence unit and preventive branch, IGIA Customs and special cell of Delhi Police.
They were taken into custody and produced before the Duty Magistrate.

370 capsules extracted

The accused were admitted to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and doctors have been able to extract 370 cap-

sules filed with white powder.
"The narcotics testing has indicated that this substance is heroin of high purity. The capsules have been seized and all five passengers have been placed under arrest in accordance with relevant provisions of the NDPS Act," an officer said.
The officer told that each capsules weigh around 10 g of heroin.



Each capsules carried around 10 grams of heroin. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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•NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
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GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.W. SPECIAL PROJECT DIVISION,
AAREY, MUMBAI 400 065
INVITATION FOR TENDERS
DETAILED TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender Notice No. 6 for 2019-20

Online percentage rate e- tenders in 'B-1' Form are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Special Project Division, Aarey, Goregaon (E), Mumbai 400 065 for the following works on Government of Maharashtra e- Tender Management System website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from the P.W.D Registered Contractors in appropriate class of the Public Works Department of Maharashtra State. The right to cancel or reject of the above said e tender without assigning any reason rests with the competent authority. Conditional Tender will be summarily REJECTED.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Amount	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Reinforcement cement concrete compound wall on the Pheripheri of proposed International Zoo at Aarey Colony, Goregaon East in Sanjay Gandhi National Park Borivali East.	Rs. 8977120/-	Class4 & Above
2	Enggaging Pump Drivers to operate pumps at various pump house in Aarey premises Goregaon mumbai for one year	Rs. 5326395/-	Class4 & Above

Start				
		Start		Expiry
Stage	Date	Time	Date	Time
Tender Download	23/09/2019	10.00 am	18/10/2019	15.00 pm
Tender Bid Submission	23/09/2019	10.00 am	18/10/219	15.00 pm
Pre-bid Meeting	---	---	---	---
Date and Time of Opening the Tender (If Possible)	22/10/2019	12.00 am		

Note :- The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering Portal www.mahapwd.com on sub portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in> as under.

No.EE/PWSPD/ Aarey/TC/1808
Office Of The Executive Engineer,
P. W.Special Project Division, Aarey,
Goregaon (E) Mumbai-400065
Phone No.& Fax No.022-29272447
Date: 16-09-2019

sd/-
Executive Engineer,
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Goregaon (E) Mumbai-65

DGIPR/2019/2020/3164

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

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Founder PCMC Hosp. Pallavaram
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DOB: 21-6-1932 & DOD: 18-9-2019

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Drug lens on 20 Punjab policemen

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Police said on Thursday that around 20 personnel showed symptoms of intoxication-related diseases

during the annual medical test conducted for the staff in Amritsar (Rural) zone. A follow-up medical check-up has been recommended to check for drug abuse.

'Kartarpur Corridor work apace'

Punjab CM demands withdrawal of visitor fee by Pakistan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarnath Singh on Thursday said the work on the Kartarpur Corridor on the Indian side would be completed by October 30.

The Chief Minister visited Dera Baba Nanak to review the progress of the ongoing construction work.

Demanding immediate withdrawal by Pakistan the proposed facilitation charge of \$20 per visitor to the historic Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib, saying it was

against the basic spirit of Sikh ideology.

Capt. Singh said he had already sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention to pressurise Pakistan into withdrawing the proposed fee and suggested that the Minister of External Affairs take up the matter during bilateral meetings subject for early resolution of the matter.

The Chief Minister expressed the confidence that the work on Kartarpur Corridor on the Indian side would be completed by Oc-

tober 30, though he expressed concerns about the pace of progress on the Pakistani side. In response to a question on the security threat along the corridor, he underlined the need to remain on constant guard.

Differences with SGPC

Asked about the differences with the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee on the celebration of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the Chief Minister said talks were progressing cordially.

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TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited (<https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/>) for the supply of ENA20lakhs BLs (Id: 2019-TSC-301554-1) and supply of 40,000 BL Rectified Spirit (Id: 2019-TSC-301559-1). Last date 3 pm on 30.09.2019. For Details Contact Office/Website.
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PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI
PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI - 110001

Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.

In the matter of
OA No. 06/2018/DRT-III
IDBI BANK LTD. VS M/S PARMESHWARI DAS ASHOK KUMAR & ORS.
Applicant Defendants

To,

D-3 M/s Shakti Bhog Foods Ltd.
(A Company-Through Its Directors)
Having Its Registered Office At:-
1101-03, Pearls Business Park,
Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura
Delhi-110034

D-4 Shri Kewal Krishan Kumar
S/o Shri Jugal Kishore Kumar
R/o 15/61, West Punjabi Bagh,
New Delhi-110026

D-5 Mrs. Sunanda Kumar
W/o Shri Kewal Krishan Kumar
R/o 15/61, West Punjabi Bagh,
New Delhi-110026

D-6 Shri Siddharth Kumar
S/o Shri Kewal Krishan Kumar
R/o 15/61, West Punjabi Bagh,
New Delhi-110026

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on **27.09.2019 at 10.30 A.M.**

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this the **03rd day of August, 2019.**

By Order of the Tribunal,
Assistant Registrar,
DRT-III, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s S3 Buildwell Pvt Ltd
109 CHOUHARY COMPLEX 9 VEER
SAVARKAR BLOCK SHAKARPUR
LAXMI NAGAR East Delhi DL
110092, Ph. No: 0129-4009898

Whereas, M/s S3 Buildwell Pvt Ltd had developed an affordable group housing Colony in Sector-82, Faridabad, Haryana, over an area measuring 5 acres in the revenue estate of Village Bhatola in accordance with the provision of license no. 59 of 2014, granted by Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh ("DTCP").

And whereas, several individuals have made bookings/entered into purchase agreement for allotment of Flats / property in the said colony (hereinafter referred as allottees).

And whereas, the layout plan approved at the time of grant of license for the said colony is now proposed to be revised. And whereas, the office of DTCP has required for seeking of objection against the revision of layout plan as a pre-condition for allowing such revision in the layout plan.

Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said colony on the proposed revision of the layout plan of the said colony. A copy of the earlier approved layout plan bearing no. ZP-1000/SD (DK)/2014/28961, dated 29-12-2014 & the copy of provisional completion plan has been made available for perusal on the www.opchains.com. The said layout plan can also be perused at the Administrative office of undersigned at S.B. Sector-10, Faridabad, 121006 as well as in the office of District Town Planner (Planning), HSPV Complex, Sector-12, Faridabad.

Any allottee having any objection on revised layout plan, may file his objection in the office of District Town Planner (Planning), HSPV Complex, Sector-12, Faridabad within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision in the layout plan.

Vijay Gupta
For S3 Buildwell Pvt Ltd
Place : Faridabad Date : 20.09.2019

ILD MILLENNIUM PRIVATE LIMITED
9th Floor, ILD Trade Centre, Sector-47,
Sohna Road, Gurugram-122 018

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, M/s ILD Millennium Private Limited are in the process of undertaking of development of a Group Housing Colony in Sector-37C, Gurugram over an area measuring 15.4829 Acres in the revenue estate of Village Basai, in accordance with the license granted for a Group Housing Colony License No.13/2008 dated 31.01.2008 by Director, Town and Country Planning, Chandigarh, Haryana.

And whereas, several individuals have made booking/entered into purchase agreement for allotment of flat in the said colony (hereinafter referred Allottees).

And whereas, in the said Group Housing Colony, comprising of Towers 2, 6 & 7 with 402 Units have been registered with H.A.R.E.A., Gurugram vide Regn.No.60/2017.

Accordingly, vide this public notice, we invite only the Allottees of Towers 2, 6 & 7 to meet at ILD Greens, Sector-37C alongwith H.A.R.E.A. observer on 28.9.2019 at 11.30 AM to discuss various proposals such as formation of association of buyers, progress on Project and other updates on the Project.

Place: Gurugram
Date: 19.09.2019

Shahid Ali Khan
Authorized Signatory
M/s. ILD Millennium Private Limited

सार्वजनिक सूचना

मेरे मुकदमा श्री राजेश पुत्र स्व. श्री हरिप्रसाद एवं उनकी पत्नी श्रीमती गंगा देवी (विराही-6785, किला कदम शरीफ, बालीकी सड़क के पास, नबी करीम, पहाड़गंज, नई दिल्ली) ने अपने पुत्रों (1) प्रकाश, उनकी पत्नी शोभा, (2) राहुल, उनकी पत्नी मन्ना व (3) नीति, उनकी पत्नी मन्ना को उनके द्वारा दुर्घटनावर एवं दुर्घटना करने एवं मेरे मुकदमा के निष्पत्ति में या होने के कारण अपनी सम्पत्ति एवं वस्तुएं खोने के संबंध में विवाद कर दिए हैं। यदि कोई जमाने किसी प्रकार को लेने-देने या खर्च करने करता है तो वह अपने जोखिम पर करेगा, मेरे मुकदमा के उनके परिवार की उम्र में कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी।

अरविन्द कुमार (अधिवक्ता)
वै. नं. 127, बी.जी.ए. कॉ.क, तारु बारी कोट, दिल्ली

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sh. Adesh Goel S/o Sh. Chaman Lal Goel & Smt. Neelam Goel W/o Sh. Adesh Goel both R/o A-9/29, Second Floor, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi have disowned / debarred / discard their son Madhav Goel & his wife Kajal Goel from all their movable & immovable properties & severed all relations with them due to their disobedience & misbehaviour. Anybody dealing with them will do at his/her own risks, costs & responsibility & my clients shall not be responsible for any acts done by them.

LOKESH SHARMA (Advocate)
Ch. No. 622, W. Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

STORY

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I SAMAN Ayesha Kidwai D/o Shad Kidwai, R/o New Delhi, and saman Kidwai is the same person, affidavit dated August 20, 2019, notarised Asghar Ali, New Delhi.

EDUCATIONAL

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(Ph. No. 0130-2246558)

Applications are invited for the POST OF PRINCIPAL on regular-basis SALARY, QUALIFICATIONS & OTHER CONDITIONS as per UGC / Haryana Govt./ DCRUST, Murthal / NCTE rules.

The Application Form is available from college office on cash payment of Rs. 500/- or by post with a DD of Rs. 550/- in favour of Principal, Hindu College of Education, Sonapat.

The Form can also be downloaded from the college website (www.hcoesonepat.org) and sent with the above mentioned fee. The application form completed with all supporting documents must reach up to 10/10/2019 in a sealed envelope addressed to The President, Governing Body. A copy of application must be submitted to The Dean, College Development Council, DCRUST, Murthal (President)

TENDERS

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING
Head Office Complex, Vettivorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram, Pin: 2265876, 2265415

E-TENDER NOTICE
No. Cap/15545/19-20/MTL 19.09.19 e-Tenders (2 cover system, e-Tender) (Tender no.115/19-20) are invited from the reputed paper dealers/suppliers/mills for the supply of 4500 ream of 70 gsm D/D maplitho paper through online vide e-tender id 2019_CAPT_301586-1. Due date and time of tender bid submission (online) 30.09.2019 upto 11.00 AM. For detailed information log on the website: <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/> and www.captkerala.com
Sd/- MD, C-apt

RETENDER FOR ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANCY FOR HOTEL PROJECT

Tenders are invited for providing architectural consultancy services for construction of building having rooms, conference/banquet hall facility and guest rooms for Hornbill Nest Resort in Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The tender document alongwith terms & conditions can be downloaded from the website www.andn.in & <https://eproc.andaman.gov.in> and the last date for submission of tender is 15.10.2019.

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LEGAL NOTICE

MVC NO. 884/2018
IN THE COURT OF 3rd ADDL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE & MACT AT: RANEENNUR

Petitioner: Umesh C Kombali, V/S
Respondents: M/S Venture Supply Chain Pvt Ltd, H. No: 232A Vill-Kherki Dhaura, Gurgaon, Gurugao, Haryana-State-122001.

NOTICE OF MAIN PETITION U/O 5 RULE 20 OF CPC.
Herein it is the notice to the respondent No: 1 that:
The petitioner filed the above numbered case against you and another respondent (i.e., Insurance company) for the compensation to the injuries sustained by him in the motor vehicle accident, wherein you are the respondent No: 1 and the owner of the vehicle involved in the accident. Therefore it is order that you are hereby appear before the Hon'ble 3rd Addl Senior Civil Judge & MACT At: Raneennur in person or through an authorized agent on Date: 24-10-2019 at about 10-30 a.m., failing which the Hon'ble court will pass the suitable order in the absence of you.
Hence this notice.
by order of the Court.
Shirastedar
Pri Senior Civil Judge & MACT At: Raneennur
Sri. P.H.Patil.
Advocate for Petitioner.
Place: Raneennur.
Date: 11-9-2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the share certificates No. (s) 273875 for 100 shares bearing distinctive No (s) 126408001-126408100 standing in the name(s) Jasinder Kaur Chhabra, Devinder Singh Chhabra in the books of M/s Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, have been lost and the advertiser have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu thereof. Any person (s) who have claim (s) on the said shares should lodge such claim(s) with the Company's Registrars and Transfer Agents viz Karvy Computer share Pvt Limited, Karvy Selenium Tower B, Plot number 31 & 32, Financial District Gachibowli, Hyderabad 500 032 within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) in respect of the said shares.
Date: 20/09/2019
Place: New Delhi
Name (s) of the shareholder(s)
Jasinder Kaur Chhabra
Devinder Singh Chhabra

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Desh Raj Arora S/o Sh. Pallu Ram Arora and Smt. Sanchal W/o Sh. Desh Raj Arora R/o H.No.98, Sunder Park, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110031, have severed relation from their son Kushal Arora, debarred him from their movable-immovable properties due to his misconduct, my clients shall not be responsible for his act(s) in future.
Puspender Kumar (Advocates)
Ch. No. F-4, 1st Floor, F-Block, Karkardooma Court, Shahdara Delhi-110032

Punjab plans ordinance route for CM's advisers

Move aims to shield MLAs from the ambit of 'office of profit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH
Amid the ongoing controversy over the appointment of six Minister-rank advisers to Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, the Punjab government on Thursday decided to bring in an ordinance to exclude adviser (political and planning) from the ambit of the Punjab State Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1952.



CM Amarinder Singh

The Punjab State Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1952, had been enacted in terms of Article 191 of the Constitution, to declare certain offices of profit as not disqualifying the holders of such office from being members of the State legislature.

No disqualification
An official statement said the ordinance will amend the law to add these posts to the list of posts that are not considered office of profit for the purpose of disqualification of MLAs. With the amendment, these MLAs will not be disqualified.

count the complexity of modern day governance. Further, these amendments to the said Act have not taken into account the reports and studies of various parliamentary committees which addressed the issue of office of profit. Therefore, the Cabinet felt the need to amend Section 2 of the Punjab State Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1952," said the statement.

Six advisers
The Punjab government had earlier this month appointed six Minister-rank advisers to the Chief Minister. Five Congress MLAs were given the status of Cabinet Ministers while the sixth was given the rank and status of a Minister of State.

Court frames charges against Sunny Deol

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A railway court here has framed charges under the Railways Act against Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol and film actress Karisma Kapoor in a 22-year-old case of alleged chain pulling in a train at Naraina station in Rajasthan during the shooting for a film.

The two actors challenged the order through a revision petition in a sessions court on Wednesday. Mr. Deol and Ms. Kapoor had allegedly entered the Naraina railway station, near Phulera Junction, in 1997 and stopped the 2413-A Uplink Express by pulling its chain, which delayed the train by 25 minutes. The Assistant Station Master said in his complaint that a few persons from Mumbai shooting for a movie in a nearby village had illegally stopped the train.

After framing the charges earlier this week, the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (Railways) summoned three witnesses on bailable warrants for the next hearing on September 24.

The actors have been accused of violating Sections 141 (needlessly interfering with the means of communication in a train), 145 (drunkenness or nuisance), 146 (obstructing a railway servant in his duties) and 147 (trespass and refusal to desist from trespass) of the Railways Act.

The revision petition filed in the sessions court stated that the railway court had framed the same charges for the second time after its charges read out earlier in 2009 were set aside in 2010. A.K. Jain, counsel for Mr. Deol and Ms. Kapoor, contended that the September 17 order for framing of charges was against the law.

The film unit was shooting for the movie, "Bajrang", in 1997 at Sarvada village near Phulera in Jaipur district.

EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. : TRS/HWH/10/OT/56C, dated : 16.09.2019.
Following E-Tender is invited by Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS), Eastern Railway, Howrah in prescribed form from the tenderers for the following work :-
Description of work : Painting of Electric locomotive body with PU paint and its accessories with paint at electric loco shed, Howrah.
Approx. Cost : ₹ 82,04,969;
Earnest Money : ₹ 1,24,100;
Closing date and time of tender : 23.10.2019 at 14.00 hrs.
The details of e-Tender is available at website : www.ireps.gov.in
Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted.
(HWH-170/2019-20)
Tender Notices are also available at Eastern Railway's website : www.at.indiarailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PHUSRO NAGAR PARISHAD
Request for Proposal/E-Procurement Notice
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO.UDD/PNP/04/2019-20 Date:19.09.2019
Request for Proposal are invited on behalf of Phusro Nagar Parishad (PNP), Jharkhand for work on DBOT basis from reputed and eligible companies / firm/ Consortium/Joint Ventures having sound Technical and Financial capability for the following works:
Table with 5 columns: No., Description of Package, Estimated Capital & O&M Cost (Rs. in lac), Earnest Money (Rs. in lac), Tender Fee (Rs.), Completion Period.
Only e-tenders are acceptable. Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
बूट - बूट नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूट को तस्तेंगे
PR 217330 (Urban Development and Housing)19-20*D
EXECUTIVE OFFICER PHUSRO NAGAR PARISHAD

Bengal Governor 'rescues' Babul Supriyo from JU campus

Students had held up the Union Minister after event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA
Union Minister of State Babul Supriyo, who was confined on Jadavpur University campus by students, was rescued on Thursday night by West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar, who is also the Chancellor of the university.

campus to address the freshers and attend a seminar on governance in India. Even while entering, students formed a barricade to stop his entry. Mr. Supriyo managed to enter but the commotion began as he came out of the K.P. Basu Memorial Auditorium. The students stopped him and demanded an apology for his security men allegedly manhandling students. "His security men manhandled the students, including girl students, and the Minister used choicest words to abuse us," a student alleged.

ground in the evening with students affiliated to left-leaning and right-wing outfits clashing with each other. The students' union offices were ransacked by alleged supporters of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and Durga Vahini members. "We have always opposed political leaders entering the campus. We don't know how the Minister was allowed to hold a programme," a student said. Both Trinamool Congress and CPI(M) leaders independently said both the Minister and the students are "responsible" for the flare-up. Protests are planned in the university on Friday.

No riots in U.P. since BJP came to power: Yogi 'All festivals celebrated peacefully'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW
There has 'not been a single riot' in Uttar Pradesh in the 2.5 years since the BJP government came to power, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath claimed on Thursday.

munity were also burnt down in the incident. About 200 unidentified persons have been booked for rioting, wrongful assembly and promotion of disharmony, a police officer said. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Adityanath produced a report card of his government's achievements in the first 30 months of its tenure. He said the BJP government had vastly improved the law and order in the State and that since 2017 March all festivals were celebrated in a peaceful manner.

Patna HC concern over piling prohibition cases Bihar govt. told to reduce pendency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA
The Patna High Court on Thursday expressed concern over 2.7 lakh pending prohibition-related cases in lower courts across the State and asked the State government to explain how it proposed to dispose them. The court also observed that due to the mounting pressure of such cases working of the lower judiciary was being "adversely affected". While hearing a petition, a division Bench headed by Justice Anil Kumar Upadhyay observed that there

were over 2.7 lakh pending cases related to new Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016. Of these, 28,593 had been filed in Patna district alone. In an oral order, the Bench said the cases have increased manifold the burden on the courts and that the home secretary should explain how the State government intended to tackle the problem. State Advocate-General Lalit Kishore told the court that the matter was already being considered by the State government.

DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER, TECHNICAL EDUCATION and SKILL DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
Request For Proposal (RFP) For Selection of Training Partner for Providing Training on Internet of Things (IoT) & analytics in Polytechnic Institutions in Jharkhand
Notice
e-Tender Ref. No: DHTE&SD/TE/01(R)/2019-20
Project: Director, Technical Education, Department of Higher, Technical Education and Skill Development, Government of Jharkhand invites Proposal from reputed Private Sector Entities (Companies incorporated under the Companies Act 1956/ 2013 formed under the Applicable Laws) for Selection of Training Partner for Providing Training on Internet of Things (IoT) & analytics in Polytechnic Institutions in Jharkhand.
Selection Procedure: An open competitive Single stage two folder e-bidding process shall be adopted for selection of suitable Private Sector Partner(s).
Eligibility Criteria: For eligibility criteria and other Project Parameters, please refer to Volume I of the RFP document.
Procurement of RFP Document: RFP documents can be viewed and downloaded from https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in from 19.09.2019. A non refundable Demand Draft of Rs 10,000/- drawn in favour of "Assistant Director-cum-DDO, Directorate of Technical Education, Department of HTE&SD, Government of Jharkhand" payable at Ranchi must be deposited as bid purchase fee at the address mentioned below on or before date and time as mentioned. Scanned copies of the bid and relevant documents must be uploaded online. The last date for uploading of bid is on 30.09.2019 by 5:00 PM at the website address as given above.
Table with 3 columns: Sl. No, Event, Date.
Dr. Arun Kumar
Director (Technical Education)
DHTE&SD, Ranchi
PR 217399 Higher Education, Technical Education and Skill Development Department (19-20)_D

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ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
Ridge Road, Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi - 10
AUCTION NOTICE
A Public auction of unserviceable material will be held at Army Public School, Ridge Road, Dhaula Kuan by the Presiding Officer on 24 Sep 2019 at 11:00 a.m. Interested persons may attend the auction by paying ₹200/- as gate money. Successful bidders have to deposit a bank draft amounting to ₹10,000/- within one hour of successful bidding drawn in favour of APS Dhaula Kuan. Cheque / Cash will not be accepted. Principal



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CSIR-NORTH EAST INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, JORHAT
(वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद)
(Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)
RECRUITMENT NOTICE (Advt. No: 3/2019-REC)
CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology invites applications from Indian Nationals having requisite qualification and experience for 28 posts of Technical Assistant. For detailed Advertisement, please see Employment News, 14 September - 20 September 2019 Edition or visit our Website: http://www.neist.res.in.

Central Council for Research in Siddha
SCRI Building, Anna Govt. Hospital Campus, Arumbakkam, Chennai - 600106
Advertisement No. 4/2019
CCRS, an autonomous body fully funded by Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India, intends to engage the services of Program Assistant on contract basis as per the details given below:
Name of the post : Program Assistant - 1
Place of posting: Peripheral Pharmacovigilance Centre, SCRU, New Delhi
Remuneration : Rs. 25000/- (Consolidated)
Qualification : Essential : BSMS/MD (Siddha)
Desirable : Knowledge in Computer
Age: not exceeding 40 years
Walk-in interview : 30.09.2019 at 10:00 am at CCRS HQrs, Chennai. Further details regarding the educational qualifications, etc. are available at the Council's website : www.siddhacouncil.com
Director General

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LTD.
MCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM RANCHI - 834010
(CIN-U85100JH2013SGC0001276)
Email-jmhhdpc2014@gmail.com
Tender Notice No: JMC/NIT-19/Cryotherapy/24 Date: 18.09.2019
RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement System)
RATE CONTRACT OF CRYOTHERAPY UNIT
The Managing Director, Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Development & Procurement Corporation Ltd. (JMHDPL) hereby invites separate Technical and Commercial Bids (Two Cover System) through e-tender from the registered and eligible Manufacturers/their Authorized Dealer /Distributors/Authorized Stockist for Rate Contract of Cryotherapy Unit.
The Blank tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and should be submitted through e-procurement system only.
Table with 8 columns: No, Name of Work, Rate Contract of Cryotherapy Unit and Consumables, Time of Completion, Date of Publication of Tenders on website, Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time, Date / time for receipt of bids, Date of Technical Bid opening, Tender fee (Non-refundable)& EMD, Contact no. of procurement person.
Note: The above dates may change due to abrupt declaration of holidays. Detailed tender document can be seen and applied through website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in only, hard copies of Technical bid & Price bid will not be entertained except Tender fee & EMD.
Managing Director JMHDPL, Govt. of Jharkhand Namkum, Ranchi
PR 217277 Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society (19-20)_D

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi
Department of Health & Family Welfare
9th Level, A-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002
Public Notice
The Department of Health & Family Welfare, GNCTD, is the largest public healthcare provider in Delhi. The hospitals / institutions in Delhi provide a range of preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare services, including teaching, training and research. The Health Department intends to leverage the advancements in Information Technology to implement state of the art ICT Health Management System which is citizen centric, and which improves the productivity of the State Health Department and the state-run hospitals / institutions, thereby improving the overall healthcare system in Delhi. The total number of hospitals / institutions to be covered under this project is approx. 300+.
Industry players are cordially invited to participate and provide valuable inputs in developing the solution framework for this ambitious project, especially related to new technologies and devices which can form part of the of the overall solution landscape, benefiting the key healthcare resources like doctors, nurses, technicians, etc. as well as the citizens of Delhi. Please feel free to share your inputs via email to the below mentioned email ID, along with contact details of your representative, latest by 04/10/19. A short background note on Delhi HIMS project is uploaded on http://health.delhi.govt.nic.in for ready reference of all concerned. All subsequent information related to this Public Notice will appear on this website.
Any further query / clarification may be directed to the below mentioned email ID. Any communication not conforming to format specified will not be considered.
Email ID for communication - healthinformation.dhdelhi@gmail.com, Gautam N. Sinha at pwc.com
Format of Email - Please clearly mention in Subject "Delhi HIMS I Input or Query or Clarification (as applicable) I Company Name. Mail Body should contain queries / inputs in bullet points with supporting argument / justification.
DIP/Shabdarth/0695/19-20 DGHS, GNCTD

CBI can arrest Rajeev Kumar, says court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA
A court in Kolkata on Thursday said that the CBI has powers to arrest IPS officer Rajeev Kumar and a non-bailable warrant is not required for the purpose. Earlier in the day, CBI counsels appeared before the Alipore District Court seeking a non-bailable warrant against Mr. Kumar, who is presently posted as ADG-CID. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Subrata Mukherjee cited the earlier orders by the Supreme Court and the order delivered by Calcutta High Court on September 13, 2019. The court also reminded the CBI counsel of the High Court order where the court has said that the agency can take steps only in accordance with law.

Woman's murder puts focus on security arrangements in courts

Rajasthan High Court had directed State govt. to take steps

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR
The daylight murder of a 50-year-old woman in the district courts complex in Rajasthan's Dausa town on Wednesday has brought the focus on security arrangements in the courts, for which the High Court had recently given directions to the State government. The woman was stabbed by her estranged husband just before a sessions court was to pass the judgment in a case related to their missing daughter. Stabbed to death
The accused, Amar Chand, was overpowered by the lawyers and court officials and handed over to the police. While the accused was arrested on charges of murder,

der, the victim, Sheela Devi, was rushed to the district hospital where she was declared dead. Amar Chand had filed a case in 2013 against his wife and brother-in-law with the allegation that they had forcibly married off his deaf and dumb daughter. Police said the accused, who had planned the murder, had come to the court with a dagger after enquiring about the judgment's date and time and attacked the woman sitting on a bench outside the courtroom. Shocked by the incident, lawyers in the town, situated 57 km away from here, boycotted the court work and demanded strict measures for security of advocates, judges and the court staff as well the people visiting the courts. Lawyers said the situation in which anyone could come with weapons to the court warranted immediate action. 'Policemen misbehaved'
Dausa Bar Association president Avdhesh Sharma made a written complaint to the Chief Judicial Magistrate alleging that some policemen had misbehaved with the lawyers when they struggled with Amar Chand and tried to overpower him. "When one of my colleagues tried to save the woman, a policeman manhandled him," he said. A Division Bench of the High Court had in July this year directed the State government to take suitable steps for safety in the court complexes.

ing the courts. Lawyers said the situation in which anyone could come with weapons to the court warranted immediate action. A Division Bench of the High Court had in July this year directed the State government to take suitable steps for safety in the court complexes.



IN BRIEF
Plea by Saritha Nair not maintainable: Rahul
Kochi
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday informed the Kerala High Court that the petition filed by Saritha S. Nair, challenging his election from the Wayanad Lok Sabha Constituency, was not maintainable as she was convicted and sentenced in two cases.

Man booked for triple talaq in Shivamogga
SHIVAMOGGA
A case has been registered here against a 44-year-old man employed in Dubai for allegedly giving triple talaq to his wife. Mustafa Beig, a resident of Shivamogga, had married Aisha Siddiqui 20 years ago. In the complaint, the woman alleged that her husband pronounced triple talaq through WhatsApp.

Rajnath takes to the skies on Tejas

Becomes the first Defence Minister to experience the homegrown fighter aircraft

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU
Rajnath Singh became the country's first Defence Minister to get a first-hand feel of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas when he co-piloted a trainer version in Bengaluru on Thursday. The sortie, lasting about 30 minutes, took off from the LCA hangar at the defence airport run by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. around 10 a.m.
The pilot, Air Vice Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari of the National Test Flight Centre, later said Mr. Singh, 68, co-piloted the aircraft as it flew up to a height of 13,000 feet; he also pulled about 2.5 g but the flight was so smooth that the Minister apparently did not feel its high speed of nearly 1 mach.
Mr. Singh's flight was a morale booster for the decades-long LCA programme



Thrilling ride: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on LCA Tejas in Bengaluru. ■SUDHAKARA JAIN

and the efforts of their respective agencies, said G. Satheesh Reddy, Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, which is developing the LCA; and R. Madhavan, CMD of

HAL, which produces the planes.
On his return, the Minister told the media, "I am thrilled by this very special experience in my life. It was a smooth and comfortable

flight. I did whatever my pilot asked me to." He said he was keen to experience Tejas for himself. "I wanted to know the conditions under which our pilots fly the aircraft," he said.

Maradu: Kerala unlikely to seek extension in SC

Govt. to list out preparatory works in court

K.S. SUDHI KOCHI
Kerala may not seek extension of time in the Supreme Court to pull down the Maradu apartments. Instead, it will list out the preparatory works undertaken for implementing the verdict.
As the court-set deadline for the demolition of H2O Holy Faith, Alfa Serene, Jain Coral Coves and Golden Kayalarom, the four apartments that were built in violation of the Coastal Regulation Zone guidelines, ends on Friday, a few senior officials are in New Delhi finalising the affidavit to be filed in the court on the day.
The Supreme Court had on September 6 asked Chief Secretary Tom Jose to demolish the buildings and file a report on September 20. The court will consider the case on September 23.
Mr. Jose, who is away in the U.S., will reach New Delhi on Friday. The contents of the affidavit will be finalised after a round of discussion with him, said a senior official.



A file photo of Alfa Serene flats, one of the apartments which has come up in violation of the CRZ norms, in Maradu.

Eviction notice challenged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI
A petition has been filed in the Kerala High Court by the owner of a flat in the Holy Faith Apartment in Maradu challenging the notice given by the Maradu municipality asking him to vacate from his flat.
The petition was filed by K.K. Nair.
According to him, the basic principles of natural justice had not been followed by the municipality. The petitioner and other similarly placed residents should have been informed by the authorities before ordering eviction as to what was the mistake they had committed.
Besides, they should have been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard. The petitioner sought a directive to the municipal secretary not to evict him forcefully without adopting the due process of law.

dy carried out by the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai, which warned that the impacts of razing the structures would be felt in an area of one km radius has deepened the crisis for the State government.
The Maradu municipality, which has been tasked with the demolition of the illegal buildings, is groping in the dark on the implementation of the court order.
"There has not been any specific directions from the State government regarding the way forward. The local body will implement the directions of the State government," said T.H. Nadeera, chairperson.

Sekar Reddy back in TTD Board

In 2016, the A.P. govt. sacked him citing seizure of cash from his house by the CBI

S. VIJAY KUMAR CHENNAI
The Andhra Pradesh government on Thursday nominated industrialist Sekar Reddy as a special invitee to the Board of Trustees, Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams (TTD). He was also made president of the Local Advisory Committee of TTD in Tamil Nadu.
In December 2016, the Andhra Pradesh government had sacked Mr. Reddy from the TTD Board stating that the CBI had seized over ₹100 crore cash and huge amount of gold from his house in Chennai. The order had, however, said, he was not involved in any irregularity concerning TTD matters.



Sekar Reddy

Mr. Reddy recently wrote to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy contending that the contents of the Government Order (GO) removing him from the post of TTD Board were factually incorrect. He argued that the CBI had conducted a

search on his premises more than a week after the GO was issued.
The search referred to in the order was actually conducted by the Income Tax Department and the seizure was only ₹12 lakh. Other seizures made in the case belonged to SRS Mining firm in which he was one of the partners. The cash seized on the company premises was accounted for and advance tax duly paid. "I have been unfairly treated in the hurried removal of my membership of the TTD Board without any verification or enquiry," he said and sought re-inducting into the TTD Board.
Of the three FIRs regis-

tered against him by the CBI, two were quashed by the Madras High Court and the chargesheet was not filed in the third till date.
Others nominated as special invitees to the TTD Board and made Local Advisory Committee presidents were Bhumana Karunakara Reddy, MLA, Tirupati; Rakesh Sinha, Member of Parliament, Delhi; Kupendar Reddy, Bengaluru; Govinda Hari, Hyderabad; Dusmanth Kumar Das, Bhubaneswar; and Amol Kale, Mumbai.
All of them would hold office for a period coterminous with the tenure of the Board that was fully constituted with 28 members on Wednesday.

Shivakumar shifted to Tihar jail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday opposed Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar's bail plea, saying he could not be absolved of his alleged liability under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act merely by paying the income tax. The matter has been posted for hearing on Saturday.
Mr. Shivakumar, currently in judicial custody, has been shifted to the Tihar Jail.
The case is based on a chargesheet filed last year by the IT Department, alleging tax evasion and "hawala" transactions running into crores.

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ENTERPRISE CONNECT

BBMB Honoured with the Highest Award for Rajbhasha -"The Kirti Puraskar"

Bhakra Beas Management Board received First Prize for Rajbhasha Kirti Award at National Level under Boards/Autonomous bodies category for the excellent implementation of the Official Language Policy during the year 2018-19 in Region "B".
Shri D.K. Sharma, Chairman, BBMB received this prestigious award from the Chief Guest, Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Home Minister, Govt. of India in a prize distribution ceremony organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 14th September, 2019. Shri Nityanand Rai and Shri G. Kishan Reddy, both Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, Govt. of India were also present on this occasion.

Incomparable and Amazing Allahabad-New Delhi Humsafar Express of Indian Railway

Railway administration would like to inform that Allahabad Division of North Central Railway is constantly striving to provide better facilities to its esteemed passengers. In this series, Allahabad Division commences the operations of one of its own kind Humsafar Express with 04 sleeper coaches along with 16 3AC coaches and having all modern facilities for passengers, from today, i.e. 13.09.2019.
However, according to the structure of Humsafar Express, only 3AC coaches are installed in Humsafar Express but on special request of Divisional Railway Manager and General Manager North Central Railway Allahabad, special train is given by Railway Board and to provide special facilities to residents of Prayagraj in train No 12275/76 and 22437/38 Humsafar Express going from Allahabad to New Delhi and Anand Vihar respectively will have 16 3AC and 04 sleeper coaches. Earlier, Duronto Express ran for three days from Allahabad to New Delhi and Humsafar Express ran for three days from Allahabad to Anand Vihar. Now increasing the operation frequency Humsafar Express will run on every day from 13.09.2019 onwards, for the convenience of passengers.

Swachhta Pakhwara-Efforts on North Central Railway to achieve Clean India Mission

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi has started Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign from Mathura on 13.09.2019. All three Divisions, Workshops and Headquarters office of North Central Railway joined this pan India a campaign which has central focus on Banning single use plastic articles below thickness of 50 micron with overall objective to control plastic waste. Moving ahead with this campaign Indian Railways is also observing Swachhta Pakhwara from 16th September, 2019 to 30th September, 2019 and Community Day on 2nd October, 2019.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDB) for funding support to MSMEs.

The Board of Directors of HSIIDC approved signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDB) for funding support to MEMEs. A decision in this regard was taken in the 359th meeting of the Board held here in Chandigarh under the chairmanship of Shri Rajesh Khullar, Additional Chief Secretary-cum-PSCM, Haryana.

Efforts of General Manager and Principal Chief Commercial Manager Realized

RCT's Proposal cleared by Railway Minister, notification issued

In order to provide relief to the passengers and their dependents hurt in railway accidents, the Ministry of Railways has taken a big step and decided to open the Railway Claims Tribunal Bench in Prayagraj. In this regard, on 12.09.2019, the Hon'ble Railway Minister made a formal announcement in Mumbai and the notification in the Gazette of the Government of India was issued late Thursday.

Dr. M. Ravi Kanth, CMD, HUDCO, planted saplings

Tree plantation drive, as part of a series of events planned to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi under the Swachh Bharat Mission. On the occasion, a mass awareness campaign rally was also organized by HUDCO.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways, expresses satisfaction over infrastructure efforts and praises the overall cleanliness standard of the stations.

Hon'ble Minister of State (Railway), Shri Suresh C. Angadi on his way to Varanasi by 22436 New Delhi - Varanasi, Vande Bharat Express inspected the first Make in India trainset and territory of North Central Railway over AL-LAHABAD division. It was indeed a rare occasion for North Central Railway when Hon'ble Minister of state first time traveled in AC chair car of this engineless trainset which runs for more than 80% of its journey on Allahabad division of North Central Railway.



IN BRIEF
Tourist held for damaging monument
BALLARI
The Hampi police have arrested a tourist on the charge of damaging a historical monument at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi in Ballari district on Wednesday.

Indigenous Astra missile tested five times
NEW DELHI
The indigenous Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile Astra was successfully test-fired five times by the Air Force between September 16 and 19 from a Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha, the Defence Research and Development Organisation said on Thursday.

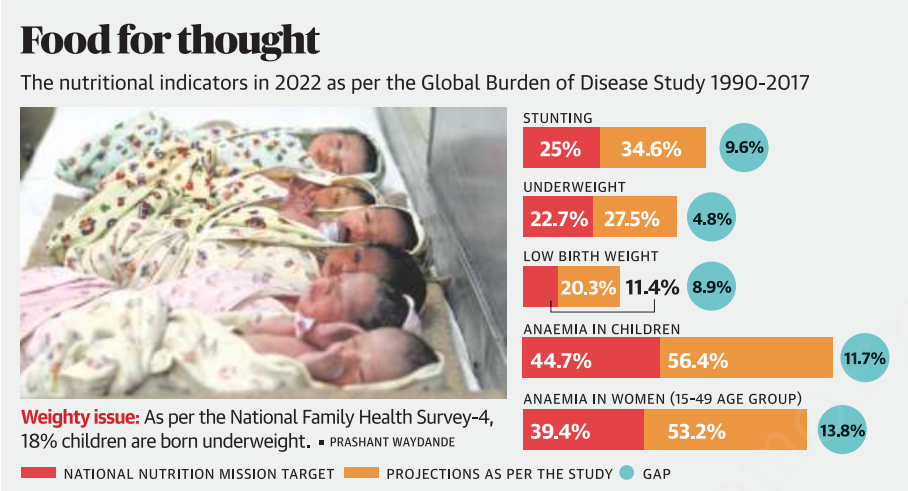
ED attaches assets of banned left-wing outfit
NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹2.89 crore, including ₹1.49 crore in cash and five vehicles worth ₹89 lakh in a case of alleged extortion by members of Tritiya Prastuti Committee, a banned left-wing extremist organisation.

India unlikely to meet 'Poshan Abhiyaan' targets, finds study

'The desired rate of improvement under the programme is aspirational'

JAGRITI CHANDRA NEW DELHI
India is unlikely to meet targets set under the ambitious Poshan Abhiyan or National Nutrition Mission (NNM) for reduction in prevalence of stunting, underweight, low birth weight and anaemia in women and children by 2022 if there is no progress achieved in improving the rate of decline observed between 1990 and 2017, according to a new study published in The Lancet.

Missed targets
The study points out that India will miss its target for stunting levels of 25% by 9.6%; underweight target of 22.7% by 4.8%; desired low birth level of 11.4% by 8.9%; anaemia level among women of 39.4% by 13.8%; and anaemia level among children of 44.7% by 11.7%, according to the Global Burden of Disease Study 1990-2017, released on Wednesday.
The report is a joint initiative of Indian Council of Medical Research, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the Ministry of



Health and Family Welfare. Poshan Abhiyan, the world's largest nutrition programme, expected to benefit 10 crore people and launched in 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to reduce stunting, underweight, and low birth weight. However, a senior official at government think-tank NITI Aayog, says that the findings are not worrisome. "Poshan Abhiyan has doubled the rate [of decline]. For example, it sets a target of 2% reduction per year for underweight, but the percentage of reduction for this indicator typically is 1%. So, we are not worried," Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog told The Hindu. Aspirational rates
The study, however, points out that the desired rates of improvement are aspirational. "Our findings suggest that the malnutrition indicator

targets set by NNM for 2022 are aspirational, and the rate of improvement needed to achieve these targets is much higher than the rate observed in this study, which might be difficult to reach in a short period. This slow pace of improvement needs to be accelerated, so that future prevalence of the malnutrition indicators is better than our projections based on trends so far," said Professor Lalit Dandona, PHFI.

'Black magic' suspect thrown into funeral pyre

Relatives of homemaker blame him for her death

ABHINAY DESHPANDE HYDERABAD
Family members of a missing autorickshaw driver lodged a complaint with the Shameerpet police here alleging that he was burnt alive in the funeral pyre of a middle-aged woman, who, according to villagers, died due to 'black magic' performed by him at Adraspally near Shameerpet.

Goes missing
The police said Boini Anjaneyulu, 25, of Adraspally, 40 km from here, went missing on Wednesday night. Quoting family members, they said he had been thrashed and burnt alive by relatives of Gyara Laxmi, 45. Balanagar Deputy Commissioner of Police P.V. Padmaja said Laxmi, a homemaker from the village ailing for the last five years, died on Tuesday and her last rites were performed on Wednesday evening. "Laxmi, a mother of four, was suffering from health complications for more than five years and died on Tuesday evening at Osmania



The funeral pyre of Laxmi from where the half-burny body of Anjaneyulu was retrieved. • ABHINAY DESHPANDE

General Hospital," she said. Hours after Laxmi's cremation, G. Narsiah, one of her relatives called the village sarpanch's husband B. Narasimha and informed him that they threw Anjaneyulu into the pyre as he had performed 'black magic'. Mr. Narasimha alerted the police, who rushed to the cremation site and found that some parts of the body were still burning at 10 p.m. "Suspecting that it was Anjaneyulu's body, police pulled it out from the pyre and sent it to Gandhi Hospital," Mr. Narasimha told The Hindu. He said that Laxmi's cremation was performed at 5.30 p.m. and usually within three hours the entire body gets burnt in the fire. Anjaneyulu's footwear was found near the pyre. "We recovered the partially burnt remains, which will be sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory for DNA analysis," Ms. Padmaja said, adding that based on the complaint lodged by Anjaneyulu's brother Ganesh, a case was registered and investigation is on. Further, she said that Laxmi's family members confessed to the crime.

SC summons U.P. Home Secretary on girl's plea

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday summoned the Uttar Pradesh Home Secretary to appear in person on September 23 in a plea filed by a 16-year-old girl, lodged in a shelter home on the orders of the Allahabad High Court, to return to her 24-year-old "husband" whom she married in accordance with the Mohammedan law. A Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana ordered the appearance of the State Home Secretary after the Uttar Pradesh government failed to

respond on the notice issued by the court. The State sought 15 days more to file the reply. To this, the Bench said the State was taking the court too lightly even though the girl, represented by advocate Dushyant Parashar, continues to be lodged in a Nari Niketan. The High Court had on July 17, 2019, declared the marriage void, saying that she had not yet attained the age of majority of 18. In her plea, the girl claimed she has attained puberty and is a major under



the Mohammedan law. She is married to a person whom she loves and her enforced stay in a home violates her basic fundamental right of equality. The petition contended that her stay in the

shelter home "amounts to illegal detention, whereas she, after attaining puberty, is competent to marry as per Mohammedan law." "Both profess Islam and have attained the age of puberty and further with the offer and acceptance and further by giving and taking dower and mehar, have performed nikah by drawing the nikahnama," the petition said. The petition quotes the case of Shafin Jahan, in which the SC upheld the right of a woman to make her own choices in life.

Punjab to distribute smartphones to youth

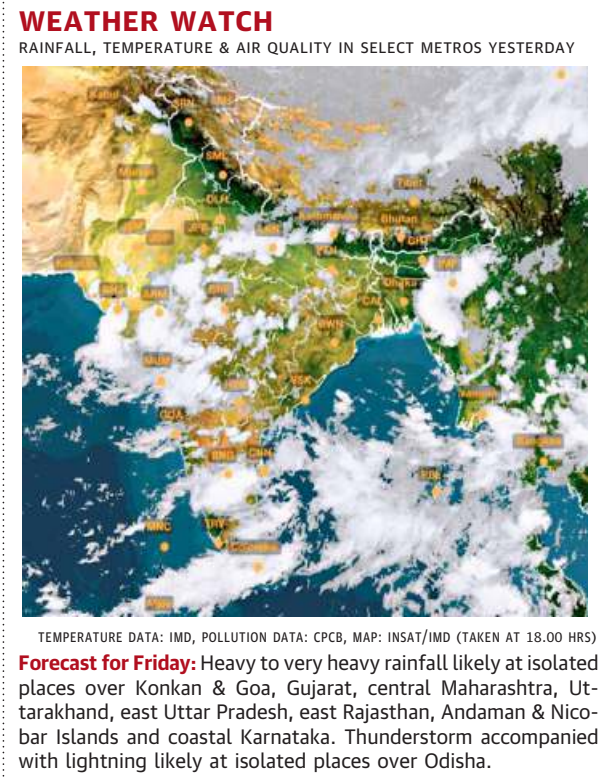
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH
The Punjab government on Thursday approved the modalities for distribution of smart mobile phones to the State's youth, to pave the way for the implementation of its 'Mobile Phones to the Youth' scheme. "The vendor to implement the scheme would be

selected through an open transparent bidding process," said an official statement, adding that the first batch of phones is expected to be distributed in December 2019. In the first phase, the mobile phones would be distributed to girl students in Class 11 and 12 of government schools in the State.

Unnao rape case: court asks for report on safety

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
A Delhi court has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to submit a report on the measures that can be taken to relocate the Unnao rape victim and her family to a safer location. She is currently under treatment at the AIIMS trauma centre. The CBI had submitted a

report before the court, expressing concern over their safety. The Chief Secretary of the State has been asked to file the report within a week. Trial proceedings are on against expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar and other accused persons. The next hearing is on September 24.



BJP protecting Swami Chinmayanand: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
Accusing the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh of supporting former minister Swami Chinmayanand, who has been accused of rape by a law student, the Congress on Thursday questioned the silence of women leaders of the party and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue. "The consequences of the BJP government and police's negligence and protection to the accused in the Unnao rape case are in front of everyone. Now, the BJP government and police are repeating the same in the Shahjahanpur case. The vic-

tim is in fear. But do not know what the BJP government is waiting for," Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said on twitter. "This is a very serious issue. It has become very clear that this government has a very non-serious approach to tackling increasing crimes against women," said Congress spokesperson Sharmistha Mukherjee in a press conference. The Congress said that while the Modi government is talking about 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', it is "busy protecting" those committing crimes against women.

PARADIP PORT TRUST E-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the Work: "03rd Dry Docking / Repairs of tug TARINI of Paradip Port Trust at Paradip". Estimated cost put to tender : Rs.1,19,32,100/-. Last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is 1500 hours on DT.15.10.2019. For details, please log on to the Website : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Deputy Conservator PPT/PR/338/19-20, Dt.19.09.2019

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY KOTTAYAM
Empanelment/ Recruitment of Technical Assistants (on contract)
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for empanelment / recruitment of Technical Assistants (on contract) in Computer Science and Engineering. A written test cum interview will be conducted as below: Date & Time: 25th September, 2019, 11.00 AM. Venue: Indian Institute of Information Technology-Kottayam, Karoor/Valloor P.O, Kerala-686635. For detailed advertisement please log on to: www.iitkottayam.ac.in Registrar

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Notice Inviting Bid NIB NO.: DC(Admin.)-02/2019-20
Online Bids are invited from Registered Consultant firms up-to 6:00 PM of 10.10.2019 for Providing urban planners/Architects, G.I.S Specialist & Auto Cad Operator Services, estimated yearly cost of Rs 256.00 Lacs. UBN No. JDA1920SLRC00149. The last date for Applying Bid and making online payment on JDA portal is up-to 6:00 PM of 10.10.2019. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the State Public Procurement Portal website www.sppprajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in. To participate in the bid, bidder has to be : 1. Registered on JDA website www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in. For Participating in the bid, the bidder has to apply for the bid and pay the Bidding, Document Fee, RiSL Processing Fee and bid security deposit, online only. 2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for online e-Bid submission. Raj.Samwad/C/2019-20/2659 Deputy Commissioner (Admin.)

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
E-TENDER NOTICE
NIT No: SECL/BSP/MMWNB/Sec-II/PVC Belting/MB 19-20/balance/42, date 12.09.2019, Tender ID: 2019_SECL_149850_1, Location of work: Dy.General manager, Central Stores, Korba (Chhattisgarh), Estimated Cost: INR 1783.229 Lakhs, Description of Work: Procurement of Fire Resistant PVC Conveyor Belting (MB 19-20) for balance items. Closing t date & time for submission of bid: 09.10.2019 at 11 AM, Date & time for opening of bid: 10.10.2019 at 11 AM, GM(MM),SECL Bilaspur Note: For details and submission of bid please visit website www.eprocure.gov.in, and e-procurement portal of CL: https://coalintenders.nic.in & www.secl-cl.in. In Case of any Misprinting/ Error, details as per website document will be considered as final. COAL : PRIME SOURCE OF ENERGY 22728/9

भारतीय ताराभौतिकी अस्थान INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ASTROPHYSICS
(विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, भारत सरकार के अधीन कार्यरत संस्थान)
(An Autonomous Body Under Department of Science & Technology, Government of India)
कोरमंगला Koramangala, बंगलूर BANGALORE -560034
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• Integrated M.Tech.-Ph.D. (Tech.) Programme: In collaboration with University of Calcutta, Kolkata.
For further details and application form, visit IIA Website: http://www.iiap.res.in
Applications should be submitted online on or before October 21, 2019. The screening test will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at various Centres across the country. Administrative Officer

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KARNATAKA, SURATHKAL
(An Autonomous Institute of the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India)
Post Srinivasnagar, Mangaluru - 575 025 Phone: (0824) 2474 000. Fax: (0824) 2474 033/ 2474 039 E-mail: registrar@nitk.ac.in Website: http://www.nitk.ac.in
No. NITK/CRF/HEFA/Advt./group 4 Date: 17.09.2019
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
NITK, Surathkal is an autonomous technical education Institute of the GOI under MHRRD. NITK invites tenders for the following equipments:
Sl. No. Name of the Equipment
1. Raman Spectrometer
2. Multi-Purpose Impact Testing Machine with Split Hopkinson Pressure Bar (SHPB)
3. Nanoindentor with attached SPM
4. High Velocity Air Fuel (HVAf) Convertible to High Velocity Oxy Fuel (HVOF) Coating Facility with Complete Turnkey Systems
5. Micro Machining Unit-Hybrid Micro EDM Machine
6. Chemisorption Analyser Integrated with Mass Spectrometry
7. Tribotester
8. Temperature and Strain Controllable Rolling Mill
9. Instrumented Impact Tester
10. Single Cylinder Optical Research Engine (SCORE)
Further details may be downloaded from the Institute website or CPPP or www.mhrrd.evizard.com Sd/- REGISTRAR

WEATHER WATCH
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY
TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)
Forecast for Friday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Konkna & Goa, Gujarat, central Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, east Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and coastal Karnataka. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Odisha.
CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN
Agartala 36.0.....27.0
Ahmedabad 1.8.....35.0.....25.0
Alizawl 31.0.....24.0
Allahabad..... 0.4.....32.0.....25.0
Bengaluru 29.0.....20.0
Bhopal 11.9.....29.0.....24.0
Bhubaneswar..... 2.4.....33.0.....25.0
Chandigarh 32.0.....25.0
Chennai 104.....29.0.....23.0
Coimbatore 30.0.....23.0
Dehradun 31.0.....23.0
Gangtok 5.4.....23.0.....17.0
Goa 0.9.....28.0.....24.0
Guwahati 36.0.....26.0
Hubballi 24.0.....22.0
Hyderabad 30.0.....23.0
Imphal 32.0.....21.0
Jaipur 35.0.....25.0
Kochi 36.2.....30.0.....24.0
Kohima 5.4.....29.0.....18.0
Kolkata 1.9.....34.0.....27.0
(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)
Pollutants in the air you are breathing
CITIES SO: NO: CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE
Ahmedabad 148 103 Moderate
Bengaluru 52 74 Poor
Chennai 15 42 106
Delhi 56 15 56 160
Hyderabad 20 21 63 71
Kolkata 16 18 28 32
Lucknow 32 49 92
Mumbai 36 101 33 63
Pune 74 68 40 40
Visakhapatnam 12 23 12 23
Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can cause visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

VIJAYAWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VMC)
INVITATION FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Rc. ACP/PMU-132694/2019-01 Dt: 19-09-2019
VMC invites Request for Proposal for "Supply, Testing, Commissioning and Operationalizing of 10 No's Reverse Vending Machines for PET Bottles at Various locations in Vijayawada Municipal Corporation".
Interested agencies / companies who are having experience in the similar nature of work including financial capability, having latest technical competency to perform this assignment can obtain the details and the Request For Proposal (RFP) documents from the office of the Chief Engineer, VMC, Vijayawada by paying Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) Non-refundable in the form of D.D. drawn in favour of the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Vijayawada payable at any Nationalized Bank in Vijayawada and Rs.1800/- (Rupees One Thousand Eight Hundred Only) in favour of Commercial Tax Officer, Vijayawada. The RFP can also be downloaded from the VMC website i.e., https://www.ourvmc.org/engg/gentenders.asp and payment of Rs.10,000/- can be made through DD while submission of RFP.
Available / Issue of Tender Schedules : 20-09-2019 at 3.00 P.M
Last date for Receipt of Bids : 04-10-2019 at 3.00 P.M
Opening of Technical Bids : 04-10-2019 at 5.00 P.M
Opening of Financial Bids : After Technical Bid Evaluation
If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the bids as specified, the bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
Commissioner, VMC reserves the right to reject or cancel any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
Any addendum / corrigendum / bid clarifications / time extension shall be issued on the website only. No spare press notification shall be issued.
Address for Correspondence :
Additional Commissioner (Projects), Municipal Corporation, Jawaharlal Nehru Buildings, Canal Road, Vijayawada - 520 001, Andhra Pradesh, Phone No : 0866-2422400 / 2421001, Cell No.: 9866897639, 9959442214
Sd/- COMMISSIONER

KARNATAKA MAHARSHI VALMIKI SCHEDULED TRIBES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
No. 10, 3rd Floor, Khadi Bhavan, Jasmadevi Bhavan Road, Vasantha Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Ph. No.: 080-22250017 / 22250018, e-Mail : mdkmvstcdc@gmail.com
No.: KMVSTDC / TENDER / PUMP / 2018-19 Date : 26-08-2019
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal only)
Tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd., in Two Cover System for Supply, Installation and Electrification of Irrigation Submersible Pumpsets suitable for 165 mm dia borewells in 22 packages for various districts of Karnataka under GANGA KALYANA SCHEME. Interested Contractors may download tender documents which contains package wise eligibility conditions, tender value, EMD etc. from e-portal site https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and more information may be obtained from e-Procurement Helpline 080-23010900 / 01 & 080-38013000. Last date for submission of tender forms is 27-09-2019 at 5.00 PM. Opening of Technical Bid is on 30-09-2019 at 11.00 AM and Financial Bid will be opened on 21-10-2019 at 11.00 AM at above mentioned address.
Sd/- Assistant General Manager and Tender Inviting Authority K.M.V.S.T.D.C., Bangalore.
DIPR/DDU/ R. 1257/2019-20

Government of India DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX CHSS SECTION
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ई निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना Notice inviting e-tender
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Smoke of the vaper

The ban on e-cigarettes will require rigorous implementation to be effective

When alternatives are peddled as ‘the lesser evil’, virtue is artificially added as a measure of degrees. The evil is often clear and present, as in the case of electronic cigarettes, in all forms – Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS), vapes, and e-hookahs. The Centre’s move to ban these products shows a welcome intolerance of anything that impacts negatively on the health and wellness of the people of the country. The Cabinet recently cleared the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Ordinance, 2019. Now, any production, import, export, sale (including online), distribution or advertisement, and storage of e-cigarettes is a cognisable offence punishable with imprisonment or fine, or both. E-cigarettes, which were to aid smokers kick their habit, do not burn tobacco leaves. Instead these battery-operated devices produce aerosol by heating a solution containing among other things, nicotine. Nicotine is an addictive substance that may, according to studies, function as a “tumour promoter” and aid neuro-degeneration. Some other compounds in the aerosol are toxic substances that have known deleterious effects, and might just be less harmful than cigarettes, not harmless. Seven deaths have been recorded in the U.S. – the largest consumer of e-cigarettes in the world – where, New York recently banned the sale of flavoured e-cigarettes.

There is ample evidence on the harm of nicotine addiction – the reason that it is only approved under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act for use only in nicotine gums and patches. As the WHO’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) outlines, these devices can only be believed to succeed if smokers have moved on to an alternative nicotine source, and then stopped using that too; and the recruitment of minors into nicotine dependence eventually wanes to zero. There is evidence now that vaping, dangled as a cool, fun, activity, lures youngsters, and ironically, serves to introduce them to smoking. The FCTC also records that e-cigarettes are unlikely to be harmless, and long-term use is expected to increase the risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, and possibly cardiovascular disease and other diseases also associated with smoking. The urgency to act on this front is also justified by the number of users. As per figures submitted to Parliament earlier this year, e-cigarettes and accessories valued at about \$1,91,780 were imported to India between 2016 and 2019. The government, already on the right path, must go all out to ensure that its ban is implemented earnestly in letter and spirit, unlike the patchy execution of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act. It is essential to ensure this progressive ordinance does not go up in smoke.

Israel undecided

Netanyahu must step aside to allow Israel to get a new stable government

Once again, Israel is poised for protracted coalition talks between the country’s two main parties. Tuesday’s election, the second this year, is shaping to be as inconclusive as the poll in April. The ambition to win a fifth term in office could elude Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the conservative Likud party. If anything, his appeal to hard-line Jewish parties to the right helped Israeli Arabs, under the rubric of the Arab Joint List, to coalesce as a more cohesive force ahead of the polls. Mr. Netanyahu also burned his bridges with potential centrist allies in recent months. With about 96.5% of the ballots counted, Israeli media says the Likud party has won 31 seats. Blue and White, the Opposition of former Army chief Benny Gantz, has reportedly won 33 seats. In the 120-seat Knesset, neither is thus anywhere near securing a clean majority. Between the two of them, Mr. Netanyahu’s position appears more precarious. Having failed to forge a right-wing coalition after the inconclusive April election, he opted to return to the people rather than allow Mr. Gantz to try and break the deadlock. Predictably, the latter has offered to establish a unity government with Likud, but without Mr. Netanyahu at the helm. Israel’s longest serving Prime Minister could not even contemplate such a scenario, as the country’s chief prosecutor is scheduled to begin a probe within weeks into bribery and fraud against him.

Reports indicate that given Mr. Gantz’s openness to work with other parties, Israel’s President Reuven Rivlin may be inclined to invite him first to form a government. The other dilemma Mr. Netanyahu faces is from the Israel Our Home party, headed by his former Defence Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, who has relentlessly campaigned to remove the exemption of ultraorthodox Jewish communities from enlisting in the armed forces. The issue was a major obstacle to the two parties coming together earlier this year. Israel Our Home and the Arab Joint List are expected to improve on their tally in this election. But to anticipate a working arrangement between them and the Blue and White Opposition may be stretching optimism too far. After all, Mr. Gantz has resorted no less to the rhetoric about expanding Israel’s borders deep into the Palestinian territory. But in Israel’s increasingly fragmented polity, the imperatives of forming a government oblige parties to strike compromises. That endeavour ought to be underpinned by a recognition of the two-state solution as the only viable course to accord dignity and sovereignty to the Palestinian people. Foremost, Tel Aviv needs a government. Mr. Netanyahu could facilitate the process by stepping aside. That would be the statesmanly act.

Over the hills and far, far away

Integration of the mountains with the mainstream is unlikely under a unitary dispensation that promises a ‘green bonus’



ANIKET ALAM

In the last week of July this year, 11 Himalayan States of India met in Dehradun demanding a “green bonus”, or a payment for environmental services they provide to the nation. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, 15th Finance Commission Chair N.K. Singh and Niti Aayog Deputy Chairman Rajiv Kumar were present. The assembled Chief Ministers argued that the Himalayan States, stretching from Jammu and Kashmir (which was still a State then) to Tripura (which most people would not really include in the Himalayan region) paid a developmental price for maintaining forests, rivers, and other environmental goods which helped the rest of the country.

This meet was organised with much fanfare, and was meant to showcase the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)’s commitment to its general election manifesto which had promised a financial package to address the special developmental needs of the Himalayan States. The States asked for help to develop hydropower resources, subsidies for their environmental protection measures which deny them normal ‘development models’, and recognition of their efforts to meet human development parameters.

Unique needs

There was perhaps nothing exceptional about much of this, and within a week, the meagre media attention this received was overshadowed by the abrogation of J&K’s special status under Article 370 and the massive clampdown on civilian life in the Kashmir valley.

However banal the demands of the Himalayan States seem in comparison to what has been happening in Kashmir since August 5, both are actually part of the same problem that India has historically had: its inability to come to terms with the specificity of the Himalayan region, whether political, social, or ecological-economic.

The problem of integrating the northern mountains to the national mainstream is not specific to India. If one takes a look at the entire mountain zone stretching from Balochistan, through Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Nepal, Sikkim and Gorkhaland, to Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, it is easy to see that each of these regions has had problems when it comes to integration of the hilly regions with the nation states that are primarily anchored in the plains. (Himachal Pradesh is the only exception, which perhaps proves the rule.)

One could also further argue that this ‘integration problem’ is not just a South Asian phenomenon – China is struggling to integrate its mountain people and their homelands with its national mainstream, as are Myanmar, Thailand, and other countries.

Scholars have for long been acutely aware of this problem. Seventy and more years ago, Owen Lattimore wrote extensively about the exceptionalism of the “Inner Asian Frontiers of China” and, a decade back, James C. Scott argued persuasively about ‘Zomia’ as the mountain zone of South-East Asia (and South Asia) which deliberately kept itself independent of the plains. Scholars in India too, from Verrier Elwin to D.N. Majumdar and Y.S. Parmar, Gerald Berreman and Ramachandra Guha, have written, even if in less ambitious terms, about how structurally different are the Himalayan



The Kalka-Shimla highway in Himachal Pradesh. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

regions from the Indian mainstream in terms of their social and economic structure. Yet, this research has not really percolated to political understanding, whether at the level of policy formulation or popular conceptions.

Legacy of the colonial era

To appreciate this point, we need to move back by a couple of centuries when the geography of the colonial state was being made. There is a long, complex and surprisingly unpredictable history to the establishment of Pax Britannica’s border lines along India’s northern mountains. For most regions in the Himalayas, this was the first time that a ‘nation state’, anchored in the society and political economy of the plains, was able to reach so deep into the Himalayas and control them in a way which was historically unprecedented. In brief, the Himalayas successfully provided a barrier to Russian colonial expansion but were unsuccessful in providing a trade route into China.

By the end of the 19th century, keeping the mountains politically quiet and socially peaceful was both a desirable aim and a hopeful description. The idyll of the ‘hill station’ and the war-like strategies towards the northern tribesmen were both creations of this policy.

Maths helped Einstein; it can help the economy too

The theory of relativity is regarded as the pinnacle of mathematical elegance, more than a century since its formulation



PARAMESWARAN AJITH

Can policymakers plan to make India a \$5 trillion economy in five years without worrying about the basic mathematics of economic growth? Some of our leaders seem to think that wishful thinking can take us there. Albert Einstein’s discovery of gravity has been invoked as a successful example for achieving seemingly unattainable goals through “out-of-the-box” thinking. Two obvious questions arise. First, did Einstein indeed explain relativity sans any inputs from mathematics? And, two, can economic growth models be devoid of mathematics?

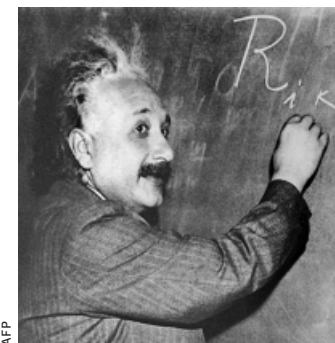
Einstein’s general theory of relativity is the most accurate theory of gravity available to us at present. True, Einstein was certainly not the first one to make contributions to our understanding of gravity. More than two centuries prior to him, Isaac Newton had proposed a universal law of gravitation. However, Newtonian theory of gravity, though remarkably ac-

curate most of the times, had its limitations. When gravity was extremely strong or when the motions involved were extremely fast, the calculations became imprecise. For example, the theoretical calculation of the orbit of Mercury – the planet closest to the Sun – turned out to have a small disagreement with the actual observations of Mercury’s motion. Einstein’s theory not only predicted the orbit of Mercury accurately, but also predicted a number of interesting phenomena not anticipated earlier.

A theory of ‘space-time’

Einstein’s description of gravity was radically different from that of Newton. Newton assumed the existence of an absolute space and universal time. According to Einstein, space and time are part of a single entity called ‘space-time’. What we identify as space or time heavily depend on the frame of reference of the observer. However, space-time is universal. And gravity is the manifestation of curved space-time. Any massive object would curve the space-time around it.

It is hard to imagine a curved space-time, an entity that spans four dimensions – three spatial dimensions and the time. Typically



we can see the curvature of a surface when we have access to a higher dimension. For example, we see the curvature of the surface of a football because we have access to a third spatial dimension. It is impossible to directly observe the curvature of the space-time since we don’t have access to a fifth dimension. However, it is possible to infer the curvature of a space without accessing extra dimensions. All the familiar axioms of Euclidean geometry cease to be valid on curved spaces. For example, according to Euclidean geometry, two parallel lines always remain parallel. However, this is not true, for example, on the Earth’s surface. Consider lines of constant longitude: on the equator, meridians are parallel to each other; but on the poles all of them meet.

Thus, one could do a measurement to check whether lines that are originally parallel remain parallel. If they don’t, this is an evidence that the space-time is curved. Several astronomical observations conducted in the last century confirm that space-time is indeed curved in the presence of massive objects.

Einstein himself was not well-versed in the geometry of curved spaces. Here, Einstein turned to his friend, mathematician Marcel Grossmann, to master the necessary techniques and tools. Armed with these tools, and driven by some unique physical insights which are marks of a genius, Einstein was able to construct an elegant mathematical theory of space-time.

However, mathematical elegance is not the primary touchstone of a theory of nature. The key yardstick of success is the theory’s ability to describe the natural phenomenon that it seeks to describe – in this case, gravity. General relativity remained inaccessible to most of the scientists during its initial years. However, Einstein and many others were able to extract specific observable consequences of the curved nature of space-time by mathematically solving the equations. Even

though space-time itself is not directly observable, all of these observable predictions were verified by a variety of astronomical observations and laboratory tests.

Is math useful?

Not all areas of sciences are able to construct theories or models that have the level of mathematical rigour that theories of physics enjoy. This is due to the highly complex nature of the phenomena they seek to describe. Most of the social sciences are in this end of the spectrum, due to obvious reasons. However, economics is probably one notable exception, where models and techniques employing higher mathematics have proven to be highly fruitful.

However, “math” is also commonly used as shorthand for quantitative reasoning, which is the backbone of all scientific enquiry. Ideally, planning and policy should be largely informed by quantitative reasoning, including the purported goal of doubling the size of Indian economy in five years. Wishful thinking and ideological propaganda are poor substitutes to quantitative reasoning.

Parameswaran Ajith is a physicist at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Bengaluru. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Ban on e-cigarettes

The Central government’s concern is commendable but one wonders why e-cigarettes alone are prohibited; why not ban normal cigarettes, other tobacco products and alcohol? (Front page, “Cabinet approves ban on e-cigarettes,” Sept. 19). Neither are e-cigarettes as widely available as the conventional tobacco products nor are they consumed as much. If the government is really concerned about public health, it should ban cigarettes and beedis. Failing that, the present ban will serve more as a token measure and could even end up boosting the sales figures of the country’s tobacco industry. KSHIRASAGARA BALAJI RAO, Hyderabad

Smokers have a wrong perception that e-cigarettes are a less-harmful alternative to cigarettes. On the contrary, test results have shown that they could cause potential health problems, including cancer, as they contain chemicals and toxins that are addictive. When you stop using them, you could feel depressed, and incorrigibly tetchy. Research has also proved that the use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) has not been effective in stopping smoking. Tobacco-related toxins have also been found in the aerosol vapour of ENDS products. There is also evidence that inhaled nicotine from ENDS damages lung tissues and lowers the body’s natural resistance to infections and to cancers. In fact, research suggests that youngsters who use ENDS

are more likely to start smoking conventional cigarettes. R. SIVAKUMAR, Chennai

A costly withdrawal U.S. President Donald Trump’s withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal was a big mistake which has taken West Asia to a dangerous situation. The Gulf is bearing the brunt of Mr. Trump’s ill-thought-out decision. In spite of, until recently, complying fully with the nuclear deal, Iran was unfairly squeezed by economic sanctions with “maximum pressure”. Now, other parties of the nuclear deal should come ahead to bring the U.S. and Iran back to the negotiating table. Otherwise, the imminent threat of “lose-win” war will loom large in the region. The

Aramco attack could be followed by further breach of the terms of nuclear deal if sanctions against Tehran are not relaxed (Editorial page, “Obama was right about Iran,” Sept. 19). MD. EHTESHAMULLAH, Malappuram, Kerala

Afghan peace process The collapse of talks between U.S. and Taliban marks a new phase in the Afghan crisis with the ground situation deteriorating further and attacks on civilians becoming more frequent (Editorial, “The Taliban problem,” Sept. 19). Unfortunately, this phase coincides with the campaigning period for the upcoming presidential elections in Afghanistan and people attending the campaign rallies could become easy targets for the

insurgents. U.S. should temporarily place on hold its plans for complete troop withdrawal to enable peaceful conduct of the elections and to force the Taliban to return to the table for talks. This time, Washington needs to make the talks more broad-based and give the Afghan government its rightful place at the negotiating table. India and other regional players can play a significant role in the peace process. KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI, Hyderabad

Language parity

The belated clarifications by Shah on Hindi are short on the question of English continuing as an associate official language at the Centre, between the Centre and the States and between the States. It is now necessary to amend the Constitution to provide a level-playing field for all the languages in the country and ensure parity. V. PADMANABHAN, Bengaluru

MORE LETTERS ONLINE: www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: >>The entry corresponding to “A hundred years ago” – “Help the Punjab: An appeal”, (“From the archives” column, early editions, Sept. 19, 2019) had been erroneously dated Sept 19, 2019. It should have been Sept. 19, 1919. >>The headline of the lead story (Sept. 18, 2019) “Government to peg MGNREGA wages to inflation in bid to hike incomes” should have instead read: “Government to update inflation index linked to MGNREGA wages in bid to hike incomes”.

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Can Hindi unite India?

PARLEY

Discarding diversity for a purely majoritarian reason will be disastrous

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement last week that Hindi can unite the country once again evoked sharp disapproval from political parties, especially in south India. Mr. Shah later clarified that he meant Hindi as a second language. G.N. Devy and Yogendra Yadav speak on the perils of monolingualism in a country as linguistically diverse as India in a conversation moderated by Anuradha Raman. Edited excerpts:

Is Hindi everyone's language?

G.N. Devy: The name 'Shah' is of Persian origin. Our languages are interlinked and we have many languages in the country. The 2011 Census listed 1,369 'mother tongues' in the country. Hindi is only one among them.

So, even in a majority of Hindi-speaking States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, what is spoken is not Hindi as we understand it?

GND : I will go back to the Census data. When the languages were enumerated, Hindi subsumed Bhojpuri, which is spoken by a little over five crore people. The Census has put Bhojpuri as a subset of Hindi. So, it may be true that Hindi is spoken by a large number of people in India, but it is equally true that it is not spoken by a majority of Indians. And I don't think thinking in numerical terms alone is correct. It does not matter how many speak Hindi. The issue that Mr. Shah was talking about was what connects the country. His argument is not sound. What connects the country is the Constitution, which has made space for 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule. It upholds the language diversity principle. How can Mr. Shah say that one particular language of the 22 languages should be brought forward to connect Indians? What connects Indians is the Constitution, our history and some epoch-making phenomena, whether it is the Buddha, the Bhakti movement or the freedom struggle. So, Mr. Shah's comment is not historically sensible, nor is it constitutionally right. And it is linguistically untenable. When a language tries to expand

beyond its semantic-carrying capacity, it starts breaking up. It happened to Latin in the past. It happened to Sanskrit. And it is now happening to English as well. So, if Mr. Shah is genuinely interested in preserving the Hindi language, he should let the Hindi speakers alone. The government should not interfere with the linguistic behaviour or choices of people.

Yogendra Yadav: I will take off from where Professor Devy stopped. To be fair, I think Mr. Shah knows that Hindi is not everyone's language. In his speech and formal statement, he talks about India's multilingualism. He seems to be encouraging people to use Hindi. To begin with, it looks like a benign gesture coming from a non-Hindi speaker. The real problem is his belief that notwithstanding this multiplicity, we need one language to unite the country and that language can only be Hindi. I suspect this is his genuine belief and not something put out for political expediency. That to me is an attempt to copy a failed idea. 'One nation, one language, one culture' is a 19th century European idea that failed to create unity. Instead, it caused a lot of bloodshed in the world. Just when the world is moving away from this preposterous idea, our rulers wish to copy it. This is the real curse of the colonised mind. Our tragedy was not just that we were colonised, but also that we were colonised by linguistically challenged islanders who could not think beyond one language. This idea is not in tune with our history, culture and civilisation. We are a multilingual society. Speaking more than one language comes naturally to us.

Yes, many leaders in the national movement visualised a special role for Hindi. Most of them supported Hindusthani, a mixed language, not the pure Hindi being pushed today. But all of them were clear that it could not be imposed.

Professor Devy, you had written that levels of migration were low when Indian States were created on a linguistic basis. For the last seven decades, you have observed that there have been large inter-



State migrations, perhaps creating the need for a common linguistic vehicle for communication, education and governance. Hindi would emerge at the top of the pack if one were to choose among languages. Is that not so?

GND: We started creating linguistic States in 1955-56. Today nearly 35% of people are migrating daily for work. In such a situation, we have to conceptualise a new form of language identity for our States. Our cities must be recognised as multilingual entities. This will help us in unhinging the education policy for some large metropolises. The current practice of clubbing together multilingual spaces with monolingual habitats is not fair to the large cities today. For instance, in Maharashtra, one may argue that a child should be instructed only in Marathi. This is a good argument for a linguistic State. But it is not a good idea to impose this universally in Mumbai as well. So, the language choice of citizens should be widened and not narrowed by the state. If there is a mechanical and monolithic idea of unity followed by any entity, such an entity generally generates great hostility beyond its immediate borders. If India were to remain obsessed with this kind of a deeply flawed idea of nationalism, Indians will never have a happy relationship with their neighbours.

A united nation has to have space for diversity. India is united in its diversity. Diversity is a great philosophical idea and should never be seen as a cultural burden. We cannot discard it for a purely majoritarian reason. Any idea of one link language, whether Hindi or English, will be economically disastrous for India. It will slow down migration

What connects our country is the Constitution and some epoch-making phenomena. So, Amit Shah's comment is not historically sensible, nor is it constitutionally right.

and reduce the ease of capital flow. It will not be wrong to say that all these emotive issues thrown in the country's face by the current dispensation keep diverting attention away from the economy, which has hit an alarming low.

Is it time to rethink the three-language policy?

YY: There are no two opinions on what is good from the point of pedagogy. When a child goes to school, her initial language of instruction should be as close to the language spoken by her mother or home language. If it is Konkani or Bhojpuri, the primary schools must use that as a medium of instruction. Then, gradually, the child should be shifted to the State's official language, say, Marathi or Kannada. English can and should be taught from the beginning as a language but not as a medium of instruction. Those who need higher-level skills in English for higher or technical education should be given that, but everyone need not be burdened with that. Hindi should be introduced in non-Hindi-speaking States from an early stage and the Hindi-speaking States should introduce a non-Hindi Indian language. That was the three-language formula. For a country like ours, this was a reasonable solution worked out by all Chief Ministers and backed by educationists in the Kothari Commission. Sadly, the formula was sabotaged

from two ends. While most non-Hindi speaking States did introduce Hindi, unfortunately the Hindi-speaking States bypassed the requirement to teach a non-Hindi language (preferably a South Indian language, said the original formulation). Instead of learning Tamil or Telugu – languages that are older and richer than Hindi – they fulfilled the third language requirement with perfunctory Sanskrit. What was a move to encourage national integration began to look like an imposition of Hindi.

The other violation was that our elites started shifting to English-only education with perfunctory knowledge of an Indian language. The three-language formula exists just on paper now. While Mr. Shah's remarks have triggered a debate about a possible Hindi imposition, we have all slipped into collective amnesia about the reality of English imposition. I feel depressed when I see rural children boarding the bus to go to an 'English medium school' as neither the students, nor the parents and not even the teachers know any English. This is pedagogic barbarity.

Mr. Devy, you had written about how a child learns one language. Is it possible for a child to learn other languages too?

GND: I agree with Dr. Yadav's views. When a child learns a language she forms a world view. Every language has a unique world view. If the child is confused with a lot of languages in infancy, her cognitive facilities will not develop in a natural way. It is not healthy for a child to be victimised during the preschool years with many languages. But a child needs to cope with the world. Learning new languages in middle school widens her horizon. Everyone needs access to the outside world other than their own linguistic zone and, therefore, the need for learning one of the world languages. The three-language formula is a sound formula, but it is not the three-language determined by the Government of India but chosen by the parents of the child.

Let us look at where the linguistic disaster has happened in our country. All tribal languages are rapidly disappearing. That is because there are not enough livelihood opportunities in those languages. Liveli-

hood possibilities for tribals are diminishing; languages are not encouraged and people are getting assimilated in some larger language. This may appeal to some rabid pseudo-nationalists. But there is a huge loss entailed in the process, both economically and culturally. So far we have not monetised the loss caused. If we do that, the results would be shocking. Language diversity is a great economic proposition. India is uniquely gifted in that out of the world's 6,000 languages, we have close to 10% of the spoken languages. Our pride will get dented if we had only one language or become only a bilingual nation. I think the English speakers and the Hindi speakers are relatively privileged than those who speak tribal languages. All of us have the collective responsibility to think about this and worry about the less privileged languages. Therefore, the Home Minister, who is in charge of the Indian language policy, must ensure diversity. That will bring about unity in the country.

Language freedom is a hugely emotive issue. Every 15 days, if an emotive issue keeps dividing the country, soon there will be no country left to divide any further. In the 1970s, West Pakistan and East Pakistan were separated on the language issue. So, how much more close does Mr. Shah want to drive India to becoming like Pakistan?

Is this a diversionary tactic to divide the country?

YY: I think that the BJP is unlikely to push the language divide in the same manner in which it has pushed the communal divide. The BJP needs to grow in south India. With Hindi chauvinism, it cannot walk into south India. But the basic mindset with which the BJP works, and it has now spread to other parties including the Congress, is that you need sameness in order to become a nation. The BJP will keep pushing this agenda in one form or another – today Hindi, tomorrow NRC, and then Kashmir.

GND: I just want to ask you a question about the 'Make in India' slogan: how is it said in Hindi? There may be semantic areas where English works but Hindi fails and vice versa. We need both; we need all Indian languages. Together they make our nation.

Being mindful of diversity

There is no congruence between Amit Shah's desired outcome and the incentives to learn Hindi

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

Home Minister Amit Shah recently asserted that the nationwide adoption of Hindi is the only way India can be united. Among the non sequiturs routinely dished out by our politicians this must rank very high indeed. In this case there is also the issue of 'incentive compatibility', which pertains to congruence between the desired outcome and the incentives individuals face. The attempt to impose Hindi on the entire country by the Congress in 1965 had led to parts of the country literally burning, with instances of self-immolation in erstwhile Madras State. It left a deep scar on the people of southern India who saw the thrust as an attempted cultural cleansing no less. They are unlikely to forget this episode in a hurry, but this is not the only reason why they would reject the Home Minister's homily.

Crass majoritarianism

The people of southern India hold strongly to the idea that they are Dravidian language speakers. Hindi belongs to the group of Indo-European languages and is no less foreign in their reckoning than English is to them. This view is independent of the fast-growing evidence from population genetics that Indo-European language speakers are very likely the most recent migrants into the subcontinent. It is not dependent on an assertion that the Dravidians themselves are the 'original inhabitants' of this land. It is also independent of any fondness for English. It is based purely on the principle that privileging any one Indian language would be discriminatory. Privileging one on grounds that it is spoken by the largest number is no more than crass majoritarianism.

We find in history many instances of the adoption of the language of societies that are the object of admiration by the natives. Thus, French was the language of the Tsarist court in Russia because of the political, cultural and scientific advances made in France. For Hindi to be adopted by the people of southern India today they must hold a similar view of the society of their northern cousins.

While there may have been some of this during the national movement, as its pre-eminent leaders came from the north, there is little to commend the region to them today. Uttar Pradesh is perceived as an area of backwardness with mob lynching erupting on the watch of a complicit state. Why would the culture of such a region be the object of desire elsewhere in the country?

Finally, there is the economics. Some young researchers at one of our IITs recently employed machine learning techniques to identify the skills that determine wages in five large slums of Bengaluru. Of close to one hundred skills they considered, 'knowledge of English' and 'Internet access' turned out to be the most significant. Gender, caste and knowledge of Hindi did not matter.

Already connected

It is a fallacy to imagine that we need a common language to feel connected. Indians already feel connected due to a shared history of several millennia. In an extraordinary phase of history India had the ruler Ashoka of the Maurya dynasty trying to unify the peoples of his far-flung kingdom through ideals. Ashokan edicts range from the advice that you should respect the dharma of fellow citizens to being compassionate towards sentient beings. The language used in the edicts found in the eastern part of the subcontinent is a type of Magadhi, likely the language of Ashoka's court; the language used in the edicts found in the western part of India is closer to Sanskrit; and a bilingual edict in Afghanistan is written in Aramaic and Greek. Ashoka was clearly aware of the bigger prize and had not allowed himself to be held back by narrow linguistic nationalism.

Now, two millennia later, Mr. Shah could unite India via the Internet, and if Jammu and Kashmir is to be considered "an integral part" it cannot be left out either. He may dispense with the rock carvings but would yet have to be mindful of the linguistic diversity.

Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor, Ashoka University, Sonapat and Senior Fellow, IIM Kozhikode



NOTEBOOK

The gift curse in business journalism

The practice has taken subtle forms, but it is still unethical

K. BHARAT KUMAR

"Isn't it enough?" the timid voice asked. The public relations executive on the phone had just offered me my first 'gift coupon' as a journalist and was incredulous when I refused. At the peak of the initial public offering season in the mid-90s, given that it wasn't uncommon for corporations to extend high-priced wining, dining and gifting privileges to business journalists, publishing houses had to bring out written guidelines for staff. The diktat was that journalists must not accept anything more than a pen or a notepad at media conferences and a box of sweets during the festive season.

As I aged in the profession, I got used to seeing boxes of 'gifts' stacked up near the exit at business press conferences. PR executives sent some journalists on their way with just a

goodbye and others with the surreptitious passing on of a box. Journalists who had no qualms in accepting gifts quietly did so.

What took the cake was when one scribe lectured me on the 'necessity' of the habit. An electronics major had ferried us to the foundation stone-laying ceremony of a factory in Karnataka that ultimately never came up. A tape recorder was the 'token of appreciation' passed around. A senior journalist noticed some of us refusing the gift and took us to task. "You should not have declined. The PR person will take home the gadget meant for you and his records will show you have accepted it. You must not encourage such bad practices," he said.

Nowadays, gifting has taken more subtle forms. For instance, the PR person arranging a meeting could offer a ride from your office

or house to the meeting venue. Of course, these same folks then get cornered by journalists who ask for a cab, use it to attend the meeting, and then retain the car through the day.

Corporate honchos who have the best of intentions do not realise when they cross the line. After my interview with the CEO of a popular broadband provider, I told him I rated their complaint resolution mechanism very highly as a customer. The CEO immediately offered to upgrade my tariff plan. I refused. He argued that I was already a paying customer and that an upgrade wouldn't cross the line of ethics. I had to explain that an upgrade meant a higher tariff which he would have charged a non-journalist client. He piped down.

This is not to tar all PR and corporate folks with the same brush. Many have set more stringent rules for

themselves than media houses have. One PR person told me, "I notice you bring your own pens to press conferences. Good. If you didn't have such ethics, I wouldn't have felt comfortable letting you meet my clients."

Then there are times when you commit a gaffe yourself. At the end of a conversation with the CEO of a car-maker, journalists were offered a model of the car. We refused but the PR person insisted. To avoid unending "please" and "no's", I said I would take it as it was not expensive. I didn't quite understand the PR person's confused expression till I got home. What I'd thought would be a toy car, like the ones you see in pavement shops, was a sophisticated model costing several thousands of rupees. I called the PR person and arranged for it to be delivered back to the showroom.

The  Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 20, 1969

SC's ruling on original jurisdiction

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has held that the terms of Article 131 of the Constitution dealing with original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in any dispute between the Union Government and a State Government excluded the idea of a private citizen, a firm or a corporation as a disputant either alone or even along with a State or with the Government of India "in the category of a party to the dispute". Mr. Justice Mitter (who disposed of a number of connected miscellaneous petitions) held that nine suits - filed by the State of Bihar (as plaintiff) in the Supreme Court (under Article 131 of the Constitution) against the Union of India (as first defendant) and the Hindustan Steel Limited and the Indian and Iron Steel Limited (these two companies, as second defendant), in the suits concerned, claiming damages for alleged short delivery of iron and steel ordered by the plaintiff-State to the various sites in the State in connection with construction work of Gandak project - were not maintainable in the Supreme Court, as being outside the scope of Article 131.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 20, 1919.

Travancore's new Council.

When Dewan Rama Rao established for the first time the Legislative Council of Travancore, he had hardly any idea that the Council would ever attain its present development. In these days there was no attempt to more than imitate the models introduced in British India. The administrative system of Travancore was devised in order to secure order and efficiency. The Legislative Council, when first established, was modeled on the Council of the Madras Presidency with limited functions. It was but a Council in name intended merely to register the will of the executive. The discussion of the Budget, interpellations and resolutions, were not thought of nor was there an expression of any popular ambition to participate in the serious business of the State.

Although the new Legislative Council sanctioned under the new regulation consists of so many as 24 members, the constitution of the Council has not been materially advanced. There is no more power or privilege conceded to the people than before, only a larger number of representatives will be admitted to the Council.

FROM PAGE ONE

5, including Mirwaiz, sign bonds to secure release

In August, close to 3,000 detentions were made but subsequently two-thirds were released.

“So, effectively, around 1,000 persons are still detained and that includes troublemakers and habitual pelters of stones who have more than five-six cases registered against them,” said another government official.

He added that restrictions in most parts of the

Valley had been lifted and plans were afoot to operationalise connections of post-paid mobile numbers of the BSNL by next week.

A shopkeeper in Srinagar said they had shut business in protest against the government’s move to revoke the special status.

“No militant has threatened us, we are not opening shops as a mark of protest,” said Abdul Rahim in Srinagar.

PSBs to organise ‘loan melas’ in 400 districts

Another 200 districts will see these gatherings organised between October 10-15.

The programme, which will be headed by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, is meant to encourage customers to avail of not just retail, agriculture, and MSME loans, but also loans for vehicles and housing, and Mudra loans.

“In public, the banks will show that they are pushing

liquidity into the system,” Ms. Sitharaman said.

The Finance Minister said she has asked banks to try to get five new borrowers for every existing customer availing of a loan. “There are several MSMEs that want a one-time settlement of their dues,” she said. “We have instructed the banks to give us the number of such cases between July 1 and September 30.”

Accessing Internet is a basic right: Kerala HC

She contended that restrictions on the use of mobile phones amounted to a violation of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

The Internet, accessible through mobile phones or laptops, provided an avenue for the students to gather knowledge.

The Judge said the action of the college authorities infringed the fundamental freedom as well as privacy and would adver-

sely affect the future and career of students who want to acquire knowledge and compete with their peers.

Such restriction could not be permitted to be enforced, she said.

The court said the hostel authorities were expected to enforce only those rules and regulations required for discipline.

Enforcement of discipline shall not be by blocking the ways and means of the students to acquire knowledge, it said.

Keeladi findings traceable to 6th century BCE: report

Six carbon samples collected from the fourth season (2018) of excavations at Keeladi were sent to Beta Analytic Lab, Miami, Florida, U.S., for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating.

After analysing the AMS dates obtained, noted archaeologist Prof. K. Rajan felt the recent excavations at Keeladi presented strong evidence for some of the hitherto held hypotheses.

The samples of skeletal fragments were sent to Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute in Pune, and it identified them of species such as cow/ox (*Bos indicus*), buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), sheep (*Ovis aries*), goat (*Capra hircus*), nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), blackbuck (*Antilope cervicapra*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and peacock (*Pavo cristatus*).

“This finding suggests that the society in Keeladi had used animals predominantly for agricultural purposes,” Mr. Udhayachandran said.

Fifty-six Tamil-Brahmi inscribed potsherds were

recovered from the site of excavation conducted by the TNAD alone, the report stated.

Weaving industry

Pottery specimens from Keeladi sent to the Earth Science Department of Pisa University, Italy, through Vellore Institute of Technology for mineral analysis, confirmed that water containers and cooking vessels were shaped out of locally available raw materials.

“Recovery of 10 spindle whorls, 20 sharply pinpointed bone tip tools used for design creations, hanging stones of the yarn, terracotta spheres, copper needle and earthen vessels to hold liquid clearly attest to the various stages of weaving industry from spinning, yarning, looming and weaving and later for dyeing,” the report added.

While three excavations were undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India, the fourth excavation was undertaken by the TNAD. The fifth excavation by the latter is under way.

‘Qualitative change in attitude of hospitals necessary’

It is allegedly a case of improper and unconventional method of treatment and delay done in attending to the patient and affording him treatment,” the forum held.

‘Clear dengue symptoms’

While noting the allegations in the complaint, the panel observed: “From the records it is manifestly clear that there existed symptoms of dengue but no test was done to see the platelet count, although

the condition of the patient when brought to the hospital was critical. Secondly, the doctor under whose supervision the patient was assigned, never examined the patient, aggravating their negligence.”

The complainants also contended that the hospital had maintained there was “nothing to worry” when they offered to take their son elsewhere if it lacked the infrastructure or expertise to treat him.

For the sake of Ram, trust judiciary: PM

It is seen as a criticism of Uddhav Thackeray, who has been raising Mandir issue in the past few weeks

STAFF REPORTER
NASHIK

In a veiled attack on Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray for his comments on building the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that some *bayan bahadur* and *badbole* (loudmouths) were making flippant statements on the dispute in the past few weeks.

He urged them to stop this as the Supreme Court was hearing the matter.

“Every citizen has a lot of respect for the Supreme Court. They too should have faith in the judiciary. I would like to request all the *bayan bahadur* and *badbole* with folded hands... for God’s sake, and for the sake of Lord Ram, please trust the Indian judiciary,” he said.

Mr. Thackeray has been raising the Ram Mandir issue over the past few weeks dur-



Election stop: Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays tribute to Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji during the Vijay Sankalp rally in Nashik on Thursday. •PTI

ing seat-sharing talks with the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the Assembly election in Maharashtra.

Earlier this week, the Sena chief reportedly said the par-

ty cadre was preparing to lay the foundation stone for the temple in Ayodhya.

Mr. Modi’s remarks, without naming the Sena or its leaders, came at the end of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis’s *Mahajanadesh* Yatra in Nashik.

Mr. Modi announced that Nashik would house one of two multi-modal logistics

parks being set up in the State. In his address at the rally, Mr. Fadnavis said Maharashtra would contribute \$1 trillion to the \$5 trillion economy plan of the Union government.

Mr. Fadnavis, who had started this yatra in August, said people from the drought-hit Marathwada had donated ₹3.5 crore for relief work in flood-hit western Maharashtra.

Modi’s appeal

Mr. Fadnavis thanked the Prime Minister for giving him the opportunity to become Chief Minister, despite his not fitting into the “social engineering of Maharashtra politics”.

Mr. Modi ended the rally by sounding the poll bugle, urging the thousands of people who turned up at the meeting to vote the government back to power.

Muslim parties’ lawyer loses cool at Ayodhya hearing

Tells judge there is ‘some aggression’ in his tone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Losing his cool, a senior advocate for Muslim parties in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case in the Supreme Court, told a curious judge on Thursday that he was seeing “some kind of aggression” in his tone.

A five-judge Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, which was hearing the decades-old politically sensitive case on the 27th day, did not reassemble after the lunch break, and a source said the CJI was not feeling well.

“The CJI was a bit unwell. That is why the Bench was

discharged post-lunch,” the source said.

The Bench was earlier questioning senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for the Sunni Waqf Board and others including original litigant M. Siddiq, about the testimony of a witness who had visited the disputed site in 1935 and had deposed before the Allahabad High Court in 2000.

Bench’s request

The Bench, including Justices S.A. Bobde, D.Y. Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S.A. Nazeer, asked Mr. Dhavan to read some other portions of the testimony of witness Ram Surat Tiwari dealing with prayers offered by Hindus at the railings on the disputed site.

“This witness said that he had gone there [site] in

Case against octogenarian closed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday closed a contempt case against an 88-year-old retired public servant for writing letters cursing senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan for appearing for Muslim parties in the Ayodhya case.

“Why are you saying all these things? You are an 88-year-old man. You don’t

have respect for the law,” a Constitution Bench told advocate M. Velmurugan, appearing for N. Shanmugam, who wrote the letters. Mr. Velmurugan said the man had expressed regret for writing such letters to Mr. Dhavan.

The Bench, while accepting the apologies, said there should not be a repetition of such acts and

ordered closure of the contempt case.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Mr. Dhavan, said he did not want any punishment for the retired public servant but a message should be sent across to all in the country that there should not be any intimidation of any counsel appearing for any party in the case.

1935... Read his statement, whether we believe it or not is something else,” Justice Bhushan asked Mr. Dhavan.

“I can see some kind of aggression in My Lord’s tone,” Mr. Dhavan said. “If lordships are saying that I am twisting the evidence then I

will read that out.” This is not about twisting, the point is whether certain facts are there or not, the judge said.

Counsel apologises

Senior advocates C.S. Vaidyanathan and Ranjit Kumar objected to the statement of

Mr. Dhavan who quickly apologised to the Bench. “My apologies. Sometimes, I am taken aback. I get frightened, what should I do... When there is a hearing which is going on for this long, we sometimes get carried away.”

BJP to offer *tarpan* for slain Bengal cadre

Party says 78 workers were killed since 2013; charts block-level programmes to take on Trinamool

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

BJP working president J.P. Nadda will on September 28 participate in a *tarpan* in Kolkata to nearly 78 BJP workers who, the party says, lost their lives in political violence since 2013.

The day is *Mahalaya*, the last of the *Shraadh* period of the Hindu calendar, and the event will mark what party leaders say a systematic plan from the block-level to combat the ruling Trinamool in West Bengal.

“On September 28, Nad-daji will be at Balurghat in Kolkata, along with family members of 78 of our party workers who had been slain because of political violence,



A recent BJP protest against the killing of party activists, allegedly by Trinamool Congress workers. •PTI

and will offer *tarpan* for their souls,” Lok Sabha member and BJP State president Dilip Ghosh told *The Hindu*.

The event seeks to push the narrative of not just “wi-

despread violence” against the BJP allegedly by the Trinamool but also that the party is the only one that has the “stomach” to take on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on her turf.

Party president Amit Shah held a meeting of office-bearers involved in the State a few days ago, and as a starting point has asked that a four-member committee be set up for each Assembly constituency.

Ground report

“Each of these committees will include an MP, a legislator and two West Bengal leaders who will not be local to that constituency, in order that a correct report of the situation in the area be recorded, away from any local prejudices. The committees will be constituted by October 8 and the report handed over to the State core group. All reports will then be re-

viewed by Amitbhai [party president Amit Shah] in the first week of November,” said a senior source in the party.

Political programmes on the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill will also be undertaken across the State. “Protests over the ‘appeasement politics’ of the Trinamool, will be undertaken in each block of the State from October 15,” the source said.

The BJP is hopeful that these programmes will not only strengthen the basic organisation of the party from the block level, but will give a momentum to the campaign for the 2021 Assembly polls.



P. Chidambaram

Chidambaram’s custody extended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday extended for another 14 days the judicial remand of former Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram in the INX Media graft case.

Special judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar extended the custody till October 3, saying there was no change in the circumstances since the first time he was sent to judicial custody.

“This court has considered the grounds for police custody and thereafter for judicial custody and granted remand accordingly. There is no change in the circumstances as such. The investigation is still in progress. The accused has already applied for the bail before the Delhi High Court. Therefore as per understanding of this court, the judicial remand of the accused is extended till October 3,” Mr. Kuhar said.

Earlier, the Central Bureau of Investigation produced Mr. Chidambaram before the court on expiry of his judicial remand.

The court had on September 5 dismissed his release plea on expiry of his police remand and sent him to the Tihar jail.

Later, it had also dismissed his application to surrender in the INX Media money laundering case.

Realty development licence of Vadra’s firm to be cancelled

Haryana govt. official cites disputed nature of land title

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government has completed the formalities to cancel the real estate development licence granted to Sky Light Hospitality Private Ltd., owned by Robert Vadra, son-in-law of Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi. The licence had been later transferred to real estate major DLF Universal Ltd.

A final decision, though, is likely to be taken in the next 15 days, according to a government official.

Haryana Town and Country Planning Department’s Director K.M. Pandurang on Thursday told *The Hindu* that “the reason for the cancellation of the licence is disputed title of land.” “We are in the process of cancellation. Formalities under the



Robert Vadra

the disputed land was set aside by the then director-general of land consolidation and land records, thus affecting the title of the land.

It was the 1991-batch IAS officer Ashok Khemka who had, in 2012, cancelled the mutation of a land deal between Sky Light Hospitality and DLF.

Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij, reacting to the development, said that during the previous regime of the Congress led by Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, several irregularities were committed in various land deals. “It was during this period that Mr. Vadra’s company allegedly purchased around 3.5 acres for ₹7.5 crore, and it was later sold to DLF for ₹58 crore after getting a licence to develop a colony,” he said.

‘Howdy, Modi!’ may reveal ‘mini-deal’

Trump and Modi may announce a limited package of trade-related agreements at Houston event

SUHASINI HAIDAR
WASHINGTON DC

India and the U.S. are expected to announce the resolution of some of their trade-related differences on medical equipment caps, ICT (information and communication technology) tariffs and market access for agricultural produce. They are in discussions on restoring India's GSP (Generalised System of Preferences) status and a future free trade agreement (FTA).

Despite the positive momentum, sources said no “comprehensive trade deal” was expected during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit from Sunday and only a limited package of announcements were likely.

Sources aware of the negotiations said that on Wednesday, Indian officials handed over their version of an agreement and it was being vetted by United States Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer. They hoped that Mr. Modi and

What the ‘mini-deal’ will contain

Likely

- India addressing some of the U.S. concerns on ICT tariffs and data localisation rules, price caps or trade margin rationalisation on medical equipment such as knee implants, and agricultural market access for select produce

- The U.S. rolling back some of the tariffs that it had imposed on India in 2018, when it began its GSP review

Unlikely

- Lifting the price caps on coronary stents, announced by India in 2017 to make healthcare affordable, and major ICT concessions

Still a blur

It is unclear if the two sides have made headway on the U.S. demand for market access to dairy and pork products

President Donald Trump would make an announcement of a “mini-deal” after their bilateral meeting in New York next week. The sources would not confirm, but did not rule out, the possibility that the leaders would reference the “mini-deal” during their joint public appearance at the “Howdy, Modi!” event in Houston on Sunday, if finalised then.

The draft agreement addresses some of the U.S. concerns on ICT tariffs and data

localisation rules, price caps or trade margin rationalisation on medical equipment such as knee implants, and agricultural market access for select produce. In return, the U.S. is expected to roll back some of the tariffs that it had imposed on India in 2018, when it began its GSP review.

However, the sources cautioned that India is still holding back on lifting the price caps on coronary stents, which were announced by

the Modi government in 2017 as a move to make healthcare affordable, and shying away from major ICT concessions owing to worries over opening the market for Chinese products.

Hopes on FTA

Business chamber officials who had keenly followed the talks since trade negotiations broke down last year say that an announcement on starting formal discussions on an FTA would be significant.

“For many years, there has been a search for the next ‘big deal’ [like the civil nuclear deal] in the U.S.-India relationship. The FTA talks, if they were to start, could potentially become that,” Ridhika Batra, director, FICCI-USA, said here.

According to the sources, the USTR and Commerce Ministry officials have been discussing how to restore India's GSP status in “some form or entirely”. Despite the government announcing that it was not deeply affect-

ed by the U.S. decision to review and then revoke the GSP, the latest export figures have shown a slump, indicating that Indian exporters have lost out on contracts due to the decision. Several U.S. companies doing business in India and at least 44 lawmakers have made a case for India with Mr. Lighthizer on the GSP issue as well.

Industry insiders said any trade agreement at this point will be welcomed in both Washington and New Delhi. “For the Trump administration, which has not made much headway in its other trade tussles, including with China, the deal with India is a much needed break. For the Modi government, which has faced so much bad economic news, this will be a boost that will hopefully reopen channels of investment,” a business representative closely involved in the talks, who preferred not to be named, told *The Hindu*.

(With inputs from Sriram Lakshman in New York)

No scope for third party role in Kashmir, says India

Gokhale says PM made this clear to Trump at Osaka meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India reiterated on Thursday that there was no scope for third party intervention in the Kashmir issue.

Announcing the details of Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. from September 21 to 27, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said the Prime Minister would meet U.S. President Donald Trump in New York and Houston and pitch for a greater role for India at the international level.

“The Prime Minister has made it very clear in front of the media during his meeting with President Trump in Osaka. India does not see a role for anybody in this matter,” Mr. Gokhale said.

Mr. Trump hinted at his role while highlighting the reduced India-Pakistan tensions in recent days.

He has said that a big announcement is expected during the “Howdy, Modi!”



Vijay Gokhale

event, which, however, was not confirmed by the External Affairs Ministry.

Mr. Modi's special outreach with the leaders of 16 U.S. energy majors such as Exxonmobil, Total S.A and Dominion Energy is expected to be on September 21, which will be followed by a CEO roundtable on September 25. Mr. Gokhale said Mr. Modi would highlight India's aspiration for shaping global political and socio-economic agenda.

Apart from the official

meet with Mr. Trump, Mr. Modi's other confirmed meeting will be with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in New York. He will hold interactions with leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean.

UN speech

Apart from the speech at the UN General Assembly, he will address the Climate Summit on September 23 and participate in a special leaders' dialogue on terrorism co-organised by the King of Jordan.

“Our intention this year is to participate in all the plurilaterals to showcase our achievements in climate change, universal health coverage and sanitation. Multilateralism is at the centre of global politics and should remain so,” said Mr. Gokhale elaborating on India's agenda for interacting with the world community.

Sex workers in Silchar not in NRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

An activist in Silchar of southern Assam has asked the authorities to find ways to include hundreds of sex workers who could not apply for inclusion in the updated National Register of Citizens (NRC) because they were being shunned by their families.

Some of the sex workers in Silchar town – trafficked as children – do not know where they came from, while others had second thoughts about identifying their families through the family tree necessary for inclusion in the NRC, activist Tuhina Sarma said.

“There are hundreds of sex workers, and many have children. We cannot let them become stateless because of the profession most of them were forced into,” Ms. Sarma said.

Mamata raises NRC with Amit Shah

CM says it's not needed in West Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday told Union Home Minister Amit Shah that genuine Indians belonging to Bengali, Bihari, Gurkha and Assamese communities were excluded from the NRC in Assam and sought his intervention to ameliorate their miseries.

Ms. Banerjee had her first meeting Mr. Shah here after he assumed office about three months ago.

“I have come to meet the Home Minister to discuss the NRC in Assam and told him that many genuine Indians were excluded from the list. I have requested him to do the needful so that they can be included in the NRC as they are in distress,” she told



Mamata Banerjee after meeting Amit Shah in Delhi.

presspersons.

“The Home Minister has assured that he would look into it,” she said. Asked if there was any discussion on an NRC in West Bengal, Ms. Banerjee said no, adding it such an initiative was not required in the State.

“Even Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that the NRC was not required in his state,” she said.

J&K global investors' summit put off

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir government has shelved the global investors' summit scheduled for October.

Governor Satya Pal Malik on Thursday reviewed the preparedness for holding the summit, and decided “to reschedule it to 2020 in consultation with the Union government”.

“This is to give the Industries and Commerce Departments reasonable time for preparations to secure robust participation of investors in the summit,” a spokesman said.

The new dates will be finalised in consultation with the Centre keeping in view the policy work completion, logistics including schedule of roadshows, climatic conditions and the schedule of Parliament, the official added.

Now, schools turn recreation centres

With students not returning, Kashmir children given access to playgrounds

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

With no sign of students returning to schools any time soon in Kashmir, several government schools, in a novel idea, have decided to throw open their campus facilities for children living in the vicinity for recreational purposes.

Taking the lead, a prominent girls higher secondary school at Kothibagh near Lal Chowk here with a huge playground has put up a not-



ice for the children living in nearby areas “to use the campus for multiple activities”.

Cheating case against ex-SC employee closed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has closed a cheating and criminal intimidation case against a former woman employee of the Supreme Court who had levelled allegations of sexual misconduct against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

In May, the top court's three-member in-house inquiry committee, headed by Justice S.A. Bobde, gave a clean chit to the CJI as it “found no substance” in the allegations by the woman.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Manish Khurana accepted the closure report filed by the Delhi police after the complainant, Naveen Kumar, a resident of Jhajjar in Haryana, said he had no opposition to the plea and that he did not want to pursue the case.

“The complainant stated that he is satisfied with the investigation conducted by the police. He also stated that he does not want to file any protest petition and therefore, the closure report may be accepted as he does not want to pursue the present case,” the magistrate said. “In view of the facts and circumstances, the statement by the complainant and the police investigation, the closure report is hereby accepted.”

The court on September 6 dismissed a plea for cancelling bail of the former woman employee. The police sought cancellation of the bail after the complainant said he was being threatened allegedly by the former Supreme Court staffer and her associates.

ANDHRA PRADESH AIRPORTS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (APADCL)
(A State Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)
#7-104, A-Block, 1st Floor, Anjaneya Towers, Ibrahimpatnam-521456, Krishna District, A.P., E-mail Id: mdapadcl@gmail.com
NIT No.2/APADCL/2019-20, dated 20.09.2019 (2nd Call)
Bids are invited on the e-procurement platform for the work “Construction of Greenfield no frills Airport at Orvakal in Kurnool District (A.P) (Package - II) Balance work” from the Contractors / Contracting firms registered with Government of Andhra Pradesh. The details of Tender conditions and terms can be downloaded from the electronic procurement platform of Government of Andhra Pradesh i.e., www.eprocurement.gov.in from 20.09.2019 from 15.00 hrs. Last date of Receipt of Bids: 04.10.2019 upto 3:00 PM at O/o the Managing Director, APADCL, Vijayawada.
For any clarifications please send email to edapadcl@gmail.com/ gmenggapadcl@gmail.com or contact on Telephone 040-29700263.
DIPR 141PP/CL, Dt:19/09/2019 Sd/- Managing Director & CEO

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
Global Tender Notice No. RWF/S/004/2019 Dated 16.09.2019
E-Tender : On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites electronic tenders through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> from experienced OEMs / Manufacturers or authorized agents of foreign manufacturers for supply of the following items.

Tender No	Item Description	Quantity	Tender Opening Date
P3190005	Pouring Tube Ceramic.	192 Numbers	09/10/2019
P319003A	Graphite Mould Blanks of sizes: I) 43.5" II) 48.5"	8 Nos 22 Nos	16/10/2019
20193800A	Spares for Long Forging Machine	9 Items	09/10/2019

Tender Notice can be viewed on our website www.ireps.gov.in or www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
E-Auction Notice No. RWF/GSD/SALES SECTION / 2019-20 / 07, Dated: 07-09-2019.
On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager invites E-Auction for the sale of scrap items (Ferrous / Non-Ferrous/Miscellaneous and others), online through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> E-Auction on dates mentioned below:
October: 11-10-2019, 21-10-2019, 31-10-2019 November: 11-11-2019, 20-11-2019, 29-11-2019 December: 09-12-2019, 19-12-2019 and 30-12-2019
Detailed Tender Notice and E-Auction catalogue can be viewed on our website www.ireps.gov.in or www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in .
Principal Chief Materials Manager

ANNA UNIVERSITY
CHENNAI - 600 025
TENDER NOTICE : Tender Ref No. . 8123/PP4/ET/RCC-CPC/UDS/2019
On-line Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for the Tender Notice and Tender Notification for the Supply and Installation of Computer & Related Items for the University Departments/Centres of Anna University, Chennai through e-Tender by the Convener, Computer Purchase Committee, Anna University, Chennai – 600 025.

Sl. No.	Tender Ref. No.	Name of the equipment	Qty.	Approx. cost
1	8123_1/PP4/ET/RCC-CPC/2019	Server	3 nos.	₹ 80,00,000
2	8123_2/PP4/ET/RCC-CPC/2019	Workstation	4 nos.	₹ 15,00,000
3	8123_3/PP4/ET/RCC-CPC/2019	Storage	2 nos.	₹ 30,00,000
4	8123_4/PP4/ET/RCC-CPC/2019	IT Desktop Computer	152 nos.	₹ 91,20,000

The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <https://tntenders.gov.in> using Digital Signature Certificate and E-Token from 5.30 p.m. on 20.09.2019. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website up to 03.30 p.m. on 14.10.2019 and will be opened at 03.30 p.m. on 15.10.2019. EMD is to be submitted through the website <https://tntenders.gov.in> BY ONLINE MODE ONLY other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (<https://tntenders.gov.in>) and any press advertisement will not be published in this regard.
REGISTRAR i/c
DIPR/3294/Tender/2019

National Health Mission
Odisha State Health & Family Welfare Society
Health & FW Department, Odisha
Department of Health & FW, Govt. of Odisha
Annex Building of SIH & FW, Nayapalli, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar-751012
Advt. No: 44/ 19 Dated-20/09/2019
Application for implementation of Adolescent Health Programme under NHM, Odisha in partnership mode.
OSH&FW Society invites application from credible entities registered under Society Registration Act/ Indian Trust Act/ Indian Religious & Charitable Act. For implementation of Adolescent Health Programme in Balangir and Dhenkanal districts in partnership mode.
Sealed proposals as per the prescribed Advt. document are invited from interested eligible Agencies for “Implementation of Adolescent Health Programme” in the districts as mentioned above. The eligibility criteria, detailed requirement for “Implementation of Adolescent Health Programme” and the formats for submission of proposals are set forth in the Advt. document which can be downloaded from the website: www.nhmodisha.gov.in. Interested Agencies fulfilling the eligibility criteria may submit their proposal(s) with EMD (Rs.40,000/-) & Documents as set forth in this Advt.. If the Agency wishes to apply for more than one district, they will have to submit separate proposal along with EMD and documents as set forth in the Advt. in sealed envelope (s). The Agencies have to submit their proposal(s) to the respective District(s) in which they want to apply. The detailed address for submission of proposal at the District (s) is mentioned in the Advt. document.
Proposal(s) complete in all respect should reach the District (s) by Speed post or Registered post or Courier only on or before 11/10/2019. The proposal(s) shall be opened in the concerned district on the date and time mentioned in the Advt.. Name of the project and district must be super scribed on the sealed envelope. Incomplete applications/ applications received in an open envelop/applications received after the due date/from the blacklisted NGOs/ Trusts will be summarily rejected. The authority reserves the right for cancellation/ modification of guidelines for selection without assigning any reason thereof. No personal inquiry shall be entertained.
Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM &
Member Secretary, OSH&FW Society
342 E:
10034/11/0626/1920

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
CIN:L13100TG1958GOIO01674
10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028
Telephone: 0091-40-23538713 to 23538721 Ext: 371/ 372/ 249, 23538710
Email: pswetha@nmdc.co.in; kvbhaskar@nmdc.co.in; ksmurthy@nmdc.co.in
Global Tender Notice (E-Procurement Mode Only)
Tender No. HQMM/4005-16/18B062/86 Dtd. 18/9/2019
Global Tenders are invited through e-procurement mode for the following item from reputed Manufacturers directly or through their accredited agents in India required for NMDC Limited, Diamond Mining Project, Majhgaon Mine, Panna, Madhya Pradesh - 488001.

Description	Display of Tender Documents	Last Date & Time for submission of Tender through online
Design, Manufacture, Supply and Supervision of Erection & Commissioning of 2 nos. Single Deck Vibrating Screens (1 no. Float Screen & 1 no. Feed Preparation Screen)	20/9/2019 to 15/10/2019 (14.30 Hrs. IST)	15/10/2019 (14.30 Hrs. IST)

The detailed tender document can be downloaded from our website www.nmdc.co.in under tender section, www.aprocure.gov.in and www.msctcecommerce.com. Any corrigendum to the tender notices will be uploaded in tender section on our website www.nmdc.co.in only and will not be published in newspapers. Prospective bidders may visit the NMDC website from time to time to note the corrigendum, if any.
Jt. GM (Materials)

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bangalore South Division, Amruthnagara, Konankunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bangalore-62.
No.BBMP/EE/BS/D/TEND/11/2019-20 Date: 19-09-2019
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Single & Two Cover Tender)
(Only through E-Procurement Portal)
The Executive Engineer, (Bangalore South Division), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD/BWSSB/Railways/MES/National Highways or any State Govt. Organizations for the construction work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Ward No.	Approx. value of work (₹ in Lakhs)	EMD (₹ in ₹)	No. of Works	Cate-gory
Single Cover System					
1	192 (Call-2)	50.00	50,000/-	1	SC
2	192 (Call-2)	50.00	50,000/-	2	ST
3	192 (Call-3)	20.00	50,000/-	2	Other
4	192 (Call-2)	15.00 to 50.00	37,500/- to 1,00,000/-	3	Other
5	194 (Call-2)	20.00	50,000/-	1	Other
6	196 (Call-2)	49.99 to 50.00	49,990 to 50,000/-	3	SC
7	196 (Call-2)	50.00	50,000/-	2	ST
8	196	50.00	50,000/-	2	ST
9	196 (Call-3)	40.00 to 50.00	80,000/- to 1,00,000/-	3	Other
10	185	50.00	50,000/-	2	SC
11	185	50.00	50,000/-	1	ST
12	185 (Call-3)	25.00 to 50.00	50,000/-	1	Other
13	185	15.00 to 50.00	37,500/- to 1,00,000/-	6	Other
Two Cover System					
14	196	40.00 to 100.00	80,000/- to 2,00,000/-	4	Other
Total No's of Works				33	
Calendar of Events : 1) Last Date for uploading the filled Tender Document is 05-10-2019 upto 4:00 p.m. 2) Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on 09-10-2019 by 4:30 p.m. 3) Financial bid opening will be done after Technical bid approval. 4) Pre-bid meeting on 25-09-2019 between 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days and website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in . Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Bengaluru South Division. “Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru”					

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (SOUTH) III
A BLOCK GREATER KAILASH I NEW DELHI-48
N.I.T. NO.28/S-III (2019-2020)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost/ Earnest Money	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Replacement of 200mm dia water lines from gall no.36 UGR to Madhya Marg UGR Tughlakabad Extn. under EE(South) III (AC-49)	3143543/- 62900/-	2019_ DJB_180419_1 18.09.2019	01.10.2019 upto 3:00 PM
2.	Improvement of water supply by replacement of old water lines in J-11, J-2 DDA Flats Kalkaji and for C&D Block DDA Flats Kalkaji by P/L 100mm dia D.I. water line under South-III (AC-50)	2945749/- 59000/-	2019_ DJB_180419_2 18.09.2019	01.10.2019 upto 3:00 PM
3.	Improvement of water supply by replacement of existing old rusted/ undersize water lines Cl by P/L 100/150mm dia D.I. water lines in left out portion of F-Block East of Kailash under South-III (AC-50)(Re-invited).	2583175/- 51700/-	2019_ DJB_180419_3 18.09.2019	01.10.2019 upto 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V.374/2019-20
Executive Engineer (South)III

U.S. backs Saudi’s ‘right to defend itself’

Iranian regime’s threatening behaviour will not be tolerated, says Secretary of State Pompeo

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Thursday that America backs Saudi Arabia’s “right to defend itself” after a weekend attack targeted the heart of its oil industry, comments coming after he described the assault as an “act of war”.

The attacks have reignited fears over a wider conflagration in the region, as tensions remain high over Iran’s collapsing nuclear deal with world powers.

Mr. Pompeo’s comments on Twitter came as he was in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, after meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Kingdom’s Defense Minister. The Saudis on Wednesday displayed missile and drone wreckage at a press conference, and cited other evidence they alleged shows the raid was “unquestionably sponsored by Iran”.



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo being greeted by Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah. •AFP

Iran, which has denied involvement in the attack, warned the U.S. it will retaliate immediately if it is targeted. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif separately accused U.S. allies and officials of trying to “deceive” President Donald Trump into entering a war against Tehran.

Mr. Pompeo wrote his tweet early Thursday after his meeting with Prince Mo-

ammed over Saturday’s drone and cruise missile attack on a crucial oil processing facility and oil field. Yemen’s Iranian-backed Houthi rebels have claimed the attack, but the U.S. alleges Iran carried out the assault.

Mr. Pompeo called the attacks “unprecedented.”

“The U.S. stands with Saudi Arabia and supports its right to defend itself,” Mr. Pompeo said. “The Iranian

regime’s threatening behaviour will not be tolerated.”

President Donald Trump has been noncommittal on whether he would order U.S. military retaliation. He separately said on Wednesday that he is moving to increase financial sanctions on Tehran over the attack, without elaborating. Iran already is subject to a crushing American sanctions program targeting its crucial oil industry. The UAE announced on Thursday it had joined a U.S.-led coalition to protect waterways across the Mideast after an attack on Saudi oil installations.

The state-run Salam al-Zawabi of the Emirati Foreign Ministry as saying the UAE joined the coalition to “ensure global energy security.” Saudi Arabia joined the coalition on Wednesday. Australia, Bahrain and the U.K are also taking part.

Attack will trigger all-out war: Iran

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran’s Foreign Minister has said a military strike on Iran would trigger “all-out war”, as the U.S. and its Gulf allies accuse Iran of being behind attacks on Saudi oil facilities.

Asked about the consequence of “an American or Saudi military strike on Iran” in an interview with CNN aired on Thursday, Mohammad Javad Zarif responded: “An all-out war.”

“We don’t want war, we don’t want to engage in a military confrontation,” he said, warning it would lead to “a lot of casualties”. “But we won’t blink to defend our territory.”

U.S. drone strike kills 30, injures 40 in Afghanistan

Attack aimed at IS hits farm workers



Villagers carrying the coffin of one of the victims after a drone strike in Khogyani district on Thursday. •REUTERS

REUTERS
JALALABAD/ KABUL

A U.S. drone strike intended to hit an Islamic State (IS) hideout in Afghanistan killed at least 30 civilians resting after a day’s labour in the fields, officials said on Thursday.

The attack on Wednesday night also injured another 40 people after accidentally targeting farmers and labourers who had just finished collecting pine nuts at Wazir Tangi in eastern Nangarhar province, three Afghan officials told Reuters.

“The workers had lit a bonfire and were sitting together when a drone targeted them,” tribal elder Malik Rahat Gul said.

Afghanistan’s Defence Ministry and a senior U.S. official in Kabul confirmed the drone strike, but did not share details of civilian casualties. “U.S. forces conducted a drone strike against Da’esh (IS) terrorists in Nangarhar,” said Colonel Sonny Leggett, a spokesman for U.S. forces. “We are aware of allegations of the death of non-combatants and are working with offi-

cials to determine the facts.”

About 14,000 U.S. troops are in Afghanistan, training and advising Afghan security forces and conducting counter-insurgency operations against insurgents.

Attallah Khogyani, a spokesman for the provincial governor of Nangarhar, said at least nine bodies had been collected from the site. Haidar Khan, who owns the pine nut fields, said about 150 workers were there for harvesting, with some still missing as well as the confirmed dead and injured.

Taliban attack

Meanwhile, a Taliban mini-truck bomb killed at least 20 people and wounded 95 when it exploded near a hospital in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, a provincial official said, with casualties expected to rise.

The militants wanted to target a training base for Afghanistan’s powerful National Directorate of Security, but parked the vehicle laden with explosives outside a hospital gate nearby, said another defence ministry source.

Gantz says he should be PM

He refuses Netanyahu’s call for support to form a unity govt.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEL AVIV

Benny Gantz, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s main opponent in the country’s general election, said on Thursday he should be Prime Minister in a unity government.

Mr. Gantz spoke to journalists after Mr. Netanyahu called for them to join together in a unity government as results from Tuesday’s vote showed neither with an obvious path to form a majority coalition.

Mr. Gantz’s centrist Blue and White is nevertheless two seats ahead of Mr. Netanyahu’s right-wing Likud, ac-



Benny Gantz

ording to results published by Israeli media with 97% of the vote counted.

The ex-military chief said his alliance had the most seats and he should lead the next government.

“The public voted clearly in favour of unity,” Mr. Gantz said.

“Blue and White has at the time I am speaking won 33 seats, while Mr. Netanyahu has not obtained a sufficient majority to form a coalition as he hoped.”

He went on to say that “we will listen to everyone, but we will not accept mandates imposed on us.”

Mr. Netanyahu has been seeking to find a way to remain in office and continue his reign as Israel’s longest-serving Prime Minister.

He also faces the possibility of corruption charges in the weeks ahead.

Abolish executive presidency: Ranil backers

The proposal, made by the Prime Minister’s allies, did not find many takers at Cabinet meeting

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Backers of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Thursday proposed abolishing the country’s highly-controversial executive presidency, but with few takers in the Cabinet it was thwarted, according to those present at the discussion. The move comes a day after Sri Lanka’s Election Commission announced that presidential poll will be held on November 16.

President Maithripala Sirisena convened an “emergency Cabinet meeting” at the Presidential Secretariat on Thursday afternoon, where Minister Rajitha Senarathne and Ravi Karunanayake, both known to be supporting

Mr. Wickremesinghe’s candidacy, made a case for abolishing executive presidency, sources told *The Hindu*.

However, other Cabinet ministers, including Mangala Samaraweera, Kabir Hashim and Mano Ganesan, have opposed the idea, arguing that it was not the right time for such a move, given that the poll date has been announced. “Several of us voiced the opinion that this must not be done now, it will seem like we are afraid to contest the polls,” Mr. Mano Ganesan told *The Hindu*.

The issue of executive presidency has dominated Sri Lankan elections since 1994 with several candidates campaigning on the platform for abolishing it, but none keep-

ing the promise. The leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) representing minority Tamils have consistently demanded the abolition. Mr. Wickremesinghe’s United National Party (UNP) in 2014 adopted a motion to abolish executive presidency.

More leverage

However, other minority parties argue that an executive presidency gives minority communities more leverage in influencing national policy. Thursday’s development comes in the wake of a heightening clash within the UNP on the candidate for the presidential race. Party leader and Prime Minister Wick-

remesinghe, deputy leader and Minister Sajith Premadasa, and Speaker Karu Jayasuriya are contenders.

Many of the Ministers who opposed the proposal on Thursday are known to be backing UNP deputy leader Sajith Premadasa for candidacy. Mr. Jayasuriya recently announced that his candidacy was contingent on possible support from progressive forces for the abolition of executive presidency, while Mr. Premadasa has said there has been no “scientific survey” confirming that the people of the country were for abolition.

TNA spokesman M.A. Sumanthiran tweeted on Thursday: “Disappointed with the “Yahapalanayas”

[good governance, as the ruling coalition pitched itself in 2015] who oppose the move to abolish EP. Selfishness and opportunism at its worst. Abandoning your promises and mandates got over quarter of a century? @TNA-mediaoffice will support abolition at whatever time based on policy and not expediency.”

Sri Lanka will go to polls in less than two months. The controversial former Defence secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, is contesting from the SLPP, and the JVP is fielding its leader Anura Kumara Disanayake. All eyes are on the UNP for its choice of candidate.

STANLEY JOHNY

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suffered a major political setback on Tuesday when results of parliamentary election were out. Mr. Netanyahu, Israel’s longest serving Prime Minister who was in power for 10 consecutive years and was hoping to win a fifth term in office, failed to win a majority in the 120-member Knesset.

When almost all of the votes were counted, Mr. Netanyahu’s right-religious coalition won 55 seats, six short of majority. His Likud party’s performance was worse than the last election. The Likud won 31 seats, down from 35 in April. The Likud’s main rival, the Blue and White, led by former army chief Benny Gantz, emerged as the single largest party with 33 seats. Mr. Gantz’s centrist coalition has 44 seats.

Does it mean the reign of Mr. Netanyahu, who is called “King Bibi” by his supporters, finally over? It’s too early to reach any such conclusion. Based on the results, there are different possibilities. For now, no coalition has majority. And it’s not clear who President Reuven Rivlin will call to form the government. Mr. Netanyahu hopes that he will get the first-mover advantage as his coalition has 55 seats. But Blue and White is the largest party, and if the Joint List, the Arab parties’ alliance that has won 13 seats, backs Mr. Gantz, his bloc will have 57 MPs.

The king-maker

While both main parties are in a deadlock, Avigdor Lieberman, whose right-wing secular party Yisrael Beiteinu has won eight seats, has emerged as the king-maker. Mr. Lieberman, a former al-



Political gridlock: Benjamin Netanyahu. •REUTERS

ly-turned-rival of Mr. Netanyahu, is not part of any coalition. After the April election, he refused to back Mr. Netanyahu, forcing the Prime Minister to recommend the second poll. If Mr. Lieberman backs the Likud now, Mr. Netanyahu could

NEWS ANALYSIS

return to power. But it looks impossible as he has ruled out any tie-up with Mr. Netanyahu’s religious allies such as the Shas and the United Torah Judaism (UTJ), which have won nine and eight seats, respectively. Mr. Lieberman wants to end orthodox Jewish parties’ influence over the government and promote secular legislation. Mr. Netanyahu, on Wednesday evening, met his allies and assured them that he won’t abandon them for a new coalition.

What are the possibilities?

Mr. Lieberman wants a unity government between the Blue and White and the Likud led by Mr. Gantz that would sideline both the Jewish religious parties and the Arab parties. That will mean the Netanyahu era is over. More troubles are awaiting the Prime Minister as he could be indicted for corruption in the coming weeks.

But Mr. Netanyahu hasn’t conceded defeat. He has al-

so called for a unity government – he wants the Blue and White to join his right-religious coalition, not him joining a Blue and White-Yisrael Beiteinu alliance. On Thursday, leaders of all the parties in his right-religious bloc have signed a document backing Mr. Netanyahu for Prime Minister. But Mr. Gantz has ruled out any alliance with the religious parties. There are three in Mr. Netanyahu’s bloc – the ultra-orthodox UTJ and Shas and the religious nationalist Yamina. If either of the two leaders changes their stance, a unity government is possible. Otherwise, the deadlock will continue.

Another possibility is of Mr. Gantz forming the government with support from the Yisrael Beiteinu and the Joint List (Arab parties). But Mr. Lieberman has said he won’t sit in a government with the Arab parties (“not in this universe and not in a parallel universe”), while Ayman Odeh, leader of the Joint List, has said he’s looking to become the first Arab opposition leader in the Knesset. Despite their initial protestations, a Blue and White-Labour-Yisrael Beiteinu government with outside support from the Joint List can’t be ruled out.

And if no leader manages to form a coalition, there will be a third election.

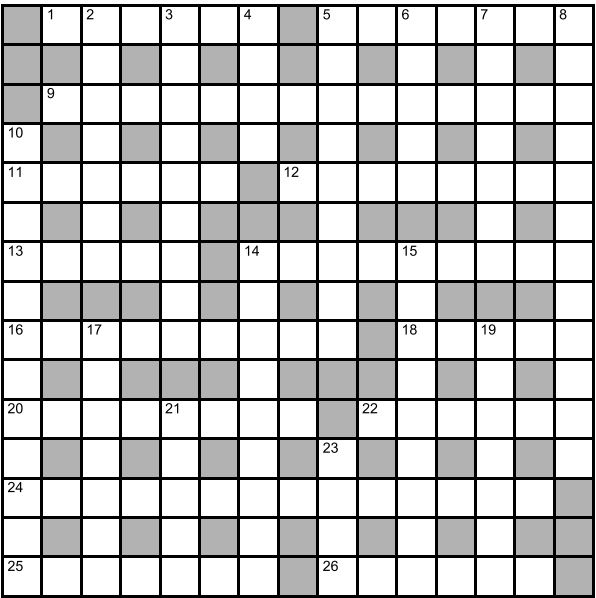
ELSEWHERE



Tunisia’s ex-president Ben Ali dies in exile

TUNIS
Tunisia’s Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, whose overthrow in a 2011 uprising triggered the “Arab Spring” revolutions, died in exile in Saudi Arabia on Thursday, days after a free presidential vote in his homeland. His funeral will take place on Friday in Saudi Arabia. A former security chief, Mr. Ben Ali had run Tunisia for 23 years, taking power when, as Prime Minister in 1987, he declared President-for-life Habib Bourguiba medically unfit to rule. Tunisians rose up against him in a revolution that inspired other uprisings in the West Asia. REUTERS

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12735



■ ACROSS

- 1 Opposed beating of thug (6)
- 5 Critically examine young man about offence (7)
- 9 Fear of cast was noticeable around director (2,2,1,4,5)
- 11 Who oversees world peace or wrecks? (6)
- 12 Bury conflict in and unite (8)

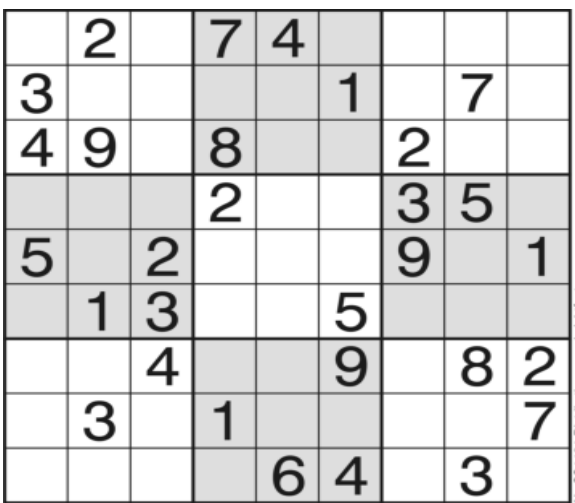
(set by Buzzer)

- 13 End of prayer period to reflect on (5)
- 14 Hope Dylan made megabucks (1,3,2,3)
- 16 One recounting going round area in RV as tourist (9)
- 18 Fight chills and fever getting better in the end (5)
- 20 Seeing score after 12 came off over, it’s all right (8)
- 22 Station say, one in Madras as an alternative/second to Central (6)
- 24 Apology from one opposed to rich player? (4,10)
- 25 Small feeds Times editor posted (7)
- 26 Revising any clue endlessly is madness (6)

■ DOWN

- 2 Outstanding bowling unit of proper quality (7)
- 3 Drink American soldier and general ordered (6,3)
- 4 Caught a cold sharing foodstuff (4)
- 5 Majesty’s special grant for us (9)
- 6 Burning gas, good going for sun? (5)
- 7 Moulded institute into training cadets (3-4)
- 8 Say a more blunt knife? (6,6)
- 10 Quiz pretentious man wearing tee shirts upside-down (3,2,3,4)
- 14 City of UP had a ball hosting mela ultimately (9)
- 15 Ape is a nut running after fruit mostly (9)
- 17 Breathtaking day when storm set off at regular intervals (7)
- 19 Knowing song scales, a habitual thing (7)
- 21 Cricket for one shedding conservative image (5)
- 23 Rest behind wheels (2,2)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12734

REGARDER ALLERGIC
U A E D E A Y A
S K I N F L I N T G A M I N
H N A A T L E N U
M U S T A N G E L E G A N T
O A I R R F S E
R A Y O N A S O F L A T E
E P A N D E M F F E W
P A N D E M I C G E N I T
P E N A R T I A D
R E D O U B T E N S U I T E
O O L I D L W
P I V O T C H I C A N E R Y
U E R A T T S E
P O R T A B L E R E N T E D

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

2 3 7 9 5 1 6 4 8
9 8 6 4 7 3 1 5 2
4 1 5 8 6 2 9 7 3
6 2 1 3 9 5 7 8 4
3 5 8 1 4 6 2 9 6
7 9 4 2 8 7 3 1 5
8 6 9 7 2 4 5 3 1
5 7 3 6 1 8 4 2 9
1 4 2 5 3 9 8 6 7

FAITH

Value of Guru

Among the many ways by which human beings strive to get rid of their sins, the sacred and holy Ganga is considered most effective and auspicious. In a discourse, Swami Paramasukananda drew attention to the purifying effects of the Ganga that make it symbolic with Jnana. But though Ganga purifies, one cannot approach her without guidance. Her flow is wild and unruly and Siva is the Adi Guru who tames her and allows her to flow on earth in such a way that she can be used by people to attain salvation. There are Ghats where people can have a dip and have contact with the sacred waters. Realised souls are like the Ghats in the course of the river with whose grace one can seek enlightenment.

The Upanishad story of Satyakama Jabali highlights the value of Guru’s teaching. The boy approaches Gautama for instruction on Brahma Jnana. The sage gives the boy some four hundred lean and sickly cattle and asks the boy to take good care of these. The boy leads them to the forest and tends them until they had increased to a thousand cattle. Then the boy is asked to go back to the master.

On the way back the boy is instructed by the bull, fire, the swan, a loon and so on. When he gets back, the master sees the boy aglow with enlightenment. He asks the boy who taught him all this knowledge. The boy says that he was taught by beings other than men.

But the boy wants to be instructed by the Guru. He says only that knowledge imparted by the guru will lead to supreme good.

The Gita states that Jnana alone can lead the aspirant towards a state of clarity of perception. A jnani remains unaffected by the glitter of Maya that generally immerses even the most strong willed into the pool of ignorance.

MARKET WATCH

	19-09-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,093	-1.29
US Dollar	71.34	-0.14
Gold	38,454	-0.70
Brent oil	64.50	0.67

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	361.90	-4.45
Asian Paints	1553.90	6.15
Axis Bank	638.20	-10.20
Bajaj Auto	2738.85	-38.20
Bajaj Finserv	7188.65	-66.40
Bajaj Finance	3362.05	-51.80
Bharti Airtel	337.60	2.00
BPCL	379.85	-2.25
Britannia Ind	2621.80	7.95
Cipla	452.05	-6.60
Coal India	193.45	1.10
Dr Reddys Lab	2732.55	-11.10
Eicher Motors	15752.50	-277.90
GAIL (India)	133.05	-1.90
Grasim Ind	699.90	-3.20
HCL Tech	1049.55	-8.90
HDFC	1974.60	-13.70
HDFC Bank	1101.05	7.18
Hero MotoCorp	2532.25	-43.85
Hindalco	195.95	-2.05
Hind Unilever	1812.75	-16.45
Indiabulls HFL	394.75	-24.50
ICICI Bank	386.60	-12.75
Indusind Bank	1282.25	-48.15
Bharti Infratel	249.40	-4.10
Infosys	820.70	-9.15
Indian OilCorp	126.20	-1.95
ITC	236.70	-2.55
JSW Steel	219.55	-1.85
Kotak Bank	1452.60	-12.15
L&T	1300.70	-17.30
M&M	519.30	-7.70
Maruti Suzuki	5971.75	-123.30
NTPC	121.70	-0.80
ONGC	124.30	-2.70
PowerGrid Corp	201.15	-0.90
Reliance Ind	1179.05	-26.65
State Bank	274.05	-6.35
Sun Pharma	411.15	-5.65
Tata Motors	124.20	2.45
Tata Steel	344.65	-13.60
TCS	2101.95	-36.60
Tech Mahindra	703.35	-13.40
Titan	1153.20	-7.50
UltraTech Cement	3866.30	-36.50
UPL	562.05	5.00
Vedanta	146.15	-3.55
Wipro	241.50	-2.80
YES Bank	54.10	-10.00
Zee Entertainment	308.85	-26.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 19

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.12	71.44
Euro	78.71	79.10
British Pound	88.64	89.05
Japanese Yen (100)	65.88	66.18
Chinese Yuan	10.02	10.07
Swiss Franc	71.73	72.09
Singapore Dollar	51.65	51.89
Canadian Dollar	53.56	53.80
Malaysian Ringgit	16.96	17.05

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

September 19 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1gr)	49.8	(50.2)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3580	(3600)

GST Council may review rates on auto sector

Easing annual return filing procedure and rationalising rates on lottery may also be on the agenda at today’s meeting

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is likely to discuss the viability of a tax rate cut for the automobile sector, easing the annual return filing procedure for small businesses and possibly rationalise the two different rates on lotteries at its 37th meeting to be held in Goa on Friday, according to tax analysts.

“The auto industry is demanding a GST rate cut from 28% to 18%,” said Ankit Agarwal, MD, Alankit Ltd.

Lower levy on FMCG

“The concerns related to the automobile industry will be taken up in the upcoming Council meeting. The Council may also lower levies on items such as biscuits,” he



Tough times: There seems to be no clarity if the slump in the automobile sector is due to high taxes. *B. VELAKANNI RAJ

said. There is, however, no consensus on whether the Council will actually reduce the GST rates on automobiles since it is not clear that the downturn in the industry is due to high rates of tax.

“While the auto industry is pushing for a GST rate-cut

at the meeting, the chances of the Council considering the same do not seem very likely as there are several factors contributing to the slump in auto sales, besides GST,” said Archit Gupta, founder and CEO, ClearTax. “The declining GST reve-

nue collections also do not provide much hope at the moment, either, for rate cuts in this sector. Further, the view is that a rate cut given to boost one particular sector will lead to other sectors also demanding the same treatment,” said Mr. Gupta.

The other major decision that is likely to be taken is exempting small business from filing the GSTR-9 annual return forms.

These forms have come under much criticism for being too complex and asking for data that businesses, especially smaller ones, cannot furnish.

“The Council may exempt small taxpayers with annual turnover up to ₹2 crore or up to ₹5 crore from filing annual returns for a year or so,” Mr. Agarwal said. “The proposed

step would ease compliance burden and subsequently help tax authorities focus on big assesses.”

“The industry is also hopeful that the government would provide the road map and corresponding timelines with regard to implementation of the new GST returns and e-invoicing which should further ease the compliance under the GST regime,” Mahesh Jaising, partner, Deloitte India, said.

Mr. Gupta, however, said the government should instead focus on easing the annual return filing procedure and forms rather than doing away with them.

GSTR-9 complexities

“We strongly feel the complexities of filing form GSTR-9 should be reviewed,”

‘Room for rate cut as inflation under 4%’

Little scope for fiscal expansion, recent oil price rise will not impact inflation: Das

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

With consumer price inflation projected below 4% over the next one year, there is room for further lowering of interest rates, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday.

“Today, when we see that the price stability is maintained, and inflation is much below 4%, and is expected to be so in the next 12 months’ horizon, there’s room for a rate cut, especially when growth has slowed down,” Mr. Das said at the Bloomberg India Economic Forum.

The central bank reduced the repo rate by 110 bps during February and August to boost economic growth. The GDP growth for the first quarter of the current financial year dropped to a 25-



Shaktikanta Das

quarter low of 5%. The repo rate is currently at 5.4% and there is an expectation that RBI will further lower the interest rate in the next policy review scheduled in the first week of October.

The central bank has a mandate to keep inflation at 4%, within a band of +/- 2%.

The RBI Governor said there was little scope for fis-

cal expansion by the government. There has been demand from the industry for an expansionary fiscal policy to support growth, which would mean missing the 3.3% fiscal deficit target for 2019-20.

Observing that the government had remained prudent on the fiscal side, he said, “I think government’s fiscal space is itself very limited. The fiscal deficit is at 3.3%. There is little space for fiscal expansion.”

On the external sector, Mr. Das said the outlook was one of cautious optimism, albeit with some downside risks accentuated at this juncture.

“Volatile international crude prices also continue to pose potential risks to the viability of the current account balance through trade

and remittances channels,” he said. On the recent spurt in domestic fuel prices following a rise in crude oil prices after the drone attack on Saudi oil plants, Mr. Das said so far the quantum of price rise would not impact inflation in a significant way.

Mr. Das said banks had to take larger haircuts in cases where NBFCs were facing governance issues.

“The resolution process will have to be market linked and banks and other lenders will have a major role to play. NBFCs, where there are major governance issues, there, (the banks) need to take a larger haircut. There are business failures but there is also an element of administrative or governance lapses. So banks will have to take a balanced call,” he said.

Vodafone Idea may gain from IUC levy extension

A third of earnings is from the charge

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India’s (TRAI) proposal on deferring the implementation of the zero interconnect usage charges (IUC) regime, if implemented, is likely to benefit Vodafone Idea, as the ailing telco will get some revenue from the interconnect fee. IUC is a cost levied by telcos handling incoming calls from rivals.

The zero IUC regime was to kick in from January 2020. However, TRAI cited the lack of migration on 4G and the imbalance of off-net traffic between operators as reasons for reconsidering the applicable date.

Vodafone Idea saw its shares jump 11.93% to ₹5.44 in a weak Mumbai market on Thursday.

“Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel stand to gain 20% and 4% respectively on 1QFY20 consolidated EBITDA. On the other hand, Rjio might see a 15% negative im-



pact on EBITDA if the decision is deferred,” according to Motilal Oswal research note.

“IUC cut-off, if deferred, will be a positive for Vodafone Idea. [About] 30% of Vodafone Idea’s EBITDA is led by net IUC revenues and this was an overhang on the stock. It will be negative for Jio as it pays about 18% of its EBITDA as IUC charges. For Bharti, the positive impact is 5%,” according to Jefferies Equity Research. Jefferies believes price hikes are unlikely in FY20 and will happen once Jio becomes the dominant player with 40%-plus market share which is expected in FY21.

Siemens sets up medical imaging unit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Munich-based Siemens Healthineers has set up a ‘future-ready’ medical imaging manufacturing facility in the city.

For this, Siemens AG has made a fresh commitment of ₹20 crore in addition to the ₹2,500-crore investment it made in setting up its largest global R&D centre here.

The next-generation manufacturing facility, co-located with the R&D centre, will manufacture diagnostic imaging and advanced therapy solutions such as computed tomography (CT) systems, based on the company’s Somatom go platform.

Siemens will also make mobile C-arm radiology systems and Cios Fit.

Gerd Hoefner, MD and president, Siemens Health-care, said, “The co-location of manufacturing with R&D centre is important as it will enable us to deliver value to customers faster.”

Telecom body okays ₹8,500 cr. for mobile towers, optical fibre laying

BharatNet in T.N., Telangana among approved projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Digital Communication Commission, the highest decision making body in the Department of Telecom, on Thursday approved multiple projects worth over ₹8,500 crore for setting up mobile towers and laying of optical fibre, with an aim to provide improved connectivity.

The commission also approved a special scheme to cover close to 12,000 uncovered villages in aspirational districts, a senior official said on Thursday.

The approved infra projects include laying of BharatNet fibre in Tamil Nadu and Telangana, at an estimated cost of ₹1,815 crore and ₹2,065 crore, respectively. Additionally, approval was given for setting up 1,917 mobile towers for uncovered villages in the North East.

“4G connectivity has been approved for uncovered villages in North East. This includes 2,215 villages in Aru-



Approval was given to set up 1,917 mobile towers at uncovered villages in the northeast. *S. RAMESHKURUP

nachal and 763 villages in two districts of Assam. This also includes highway. The total cost estimates is ₹2,536 crore,” DCC Chairman and Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash said.

For Meghalaya, the commission has approved ₹2,132 crore for 1,593 mobile towers. These proposals will be now sent to the Cabinet for approval. The Commission

also approved ‘in-building access’ by telecom service providers, in which they will be allowed to share their infrastructure. “We will request the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to issue suitable guidelines to owners or residential welfare associations to provide access to all TSPs in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner,” he said.

Liquidity stress in realty a credit negative for banks, says Moody’s

‘Altico’s default signals cash crunch among developers’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Credit rating agency Moody’s has said that the increasing liquidity stress among real estate developers would indirectly hit Indian banks and is thus credit negative for the domestic lenders.

“On September 12, real estate-focussed non-banking financial company (NBFC) Altico Capital India Ltd., defaulted on a scheduled interest payment on a loan because of insufficient liquidity. Although Indian banks’ exposure to Altico Capital is fairly modest and

accounts for less than 0.1% of total banking system loans, the default signals increasingly tight liquidity among property developers, a credit negative for Indian banks, given their significant exposure to the real estate sector,” Moody’s said.

“We believe Altico Capital is facing liquidity constraints because of a deterioration in the credit quality of its loans to real estate developers, which are facing difficulty in repaying and refinancing their maturing obligations as a result of slowing property sales,” it said.

Moody’s said Altico Capital’s default came after De-

wan Housing Finance Ltd. defaulted on its loan obligations in July because of insufficient liquidity, raising questions about its solvency.

“Among the banks we rate, Yes Bank, IndusInd Bank have the largest direct exposure to the commercial real estate (CRE) sector, and would be susceptible to asset quality difficulties if the real estate sector continues to slow,” it said.

Other rated private sector banks such as ICICI Bank and Axis Bank are also significantly exposed to the sector, it said.

Yes Bank promoter Morgan Credits sells stake to repay debt

To prepay NCDs subscribed by RNAM schemes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Morgan Credits Pvt. Ltd., a part of the promoter group of private sector lender Yes Bank, has sold 2.3% shareholding in the bank for about ₹340 crore to prepay non-convertible debentures subscribed by various schemes of Anil Ambani’s Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM) Company. “The proceeds will be solely utilised to prepay a substantial portion of outstanding non-convertible debentures (NCDs) of MCPL subscribed by various schemes of Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management Company,” Morgan Credit said in a statement.

Morgan Credits said the sale of shares was meant to de-leverage the

company. It said total prepayments (including interest) made to NCD holders, of ₹722 crore till date, was well ahead of the scheduled maturity date of April 2021.

The share sale also reduced total promoter group ownership in Yes Bank to 15.7%, in compliance with RBI’s regulatory level of 15%, as compared to 18% previously.

Rana Kapoor, co-promoter and former MD & CEO of Yes Bank said, “With the sole intention of reducing debt of the Promoter holding company – MCPL, owned by my three daughters, it was decided to bring down our family ownership in Yes Bank to 7.4%.” As at June end, Mr. Kapoor owned 4.31% stake, while Madhu Kapur, wife of co-promoter the late Ashok Kapur, had 7.56%.

GoM holds meeting on AI stake sale

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Group of Ministers (GoM), constituted to deliberate on the terms of sale for Air India (AI) and headed by Home Minister Amit Shah, held its first meeting on Thursday.

The GoM also includes Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

“The process for divestment of AI is truly underway. We are going to take all decisions in a defined period of time,” Mr. Puri said. The GoM has to decide on the quantum of divestment, debt to be waived and whether FDI norms need to be relaxed beyond 49% before a fresh tender is floated for the carrier.

REAL ESTATE IS RIPE FOR GAMIFICATION

Millennials and technology go hand in hand. Is marketing keeping up with this generation?

Social media has transformed how this generation shares its thoughts and extends its influence over others. Ratings, likes, and comments have given them power to share their opinions and pass judgment on the things they approve and disapprove. They rely on each other to make more informed decisions.

To sell to any audience, you must understand it. Millennials are reshaping the way goods and services are being marketed by staying unresponsive to traditional marketing tactics. As their purchasing power increases, millennials continue to drive consumer demand, making it necessary to re-evaluate this generation and develop strategies for engaging them.

Sandeep Reddy
AVP – Sales, Marketing, CRM, Mantri Developers

You can read the full interview in The Hindu BusinessLine today or scan the QR Code.

This article is part of a brand initiative by The Hindu BusinessLine to profile marketing professionals from across India.

KOLKATA

MUMBAI

CHENNAI

Global scientific informatics services firm Zifo RnD Solutions has expanded its operations by opening centres in Chennai and Shanghai as part of its growth plans, said a top official. "Currently, we employ 500 people in Chennai and 100 overseas," said Raj Prakash, co-founder and CEO, Zifo RnD Solutions. "This number will be doubled to 1,200 by 2023," added Mr. Prakash.

Three men in white shirts and dark trousers stand next to a large, illuminated display of a ZIEHTRON battery pack. The display features the ZIEHTRON logo and a graphic of a car chassis with the battery pack installed. The background is a dark stage with blue lighting.

The Re

Aimed at

US-head



Tamil

"The project cost will be met through a mix of debt and equity. We will borrow ₹880 crore from banks and the rest will be funded by internal accruals," said Mr. Sivashanmugaraia.



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Game for fun, relatable CHARACTERS

Sonam Kapoor on playing real women on screen and working with *The Zoya Factor* author Anuja Chauhan



SUCHETA CHAKRABORTY
When producer Aarti Shetty called Sonam Kapoor to ask if she would consider playing the lead in the screen adaptation of Anuja Chauhan's debut novel *The Zoya Factor*, Kapoor responded with a prompt "I don't think anybody but me should be playing this role".

Bookish bonds
The actor has had a long-standing relationship with the author. "I have known [Anuja] for the past seven-eight years. I own [the rights to her] book *Battle for Bittora*. I launched *Those Pricey Thakur Girls* in Delhi," she says. While a love for Chauhan's writing has led her to wholeheartedly support the author's works, she explains that it is her female characters that she finds especially

attractive. "They are fun, relatable, ordinary. They have a very typical modern Indian girl vibe to them – I really like that," she admits, noting that the regular girl with a messy work and love life is hardly ever represented on screen, being pushed out more often by the ubiquitous small-town girl or the hyper Yash Raj or Dharma city girl. Moreover, having known the author personally, she points out, "When you meet Anuja, you'll understand that all her charac-

When you meet Anuja, you'll understand that all her characters are inspired by her. She's spunky and has this self-deprecating way of looking at herself.

ters are inspired by her. She's spunky and has this self-deprecating way of looking at herself." In 2010, Kapoor worked on another screen adaptation of a literary work when she played the eponymous heroine in *Aisha*, a film that was based on Jane Austen's *Emma*. But adapting Chauhan's novel for the screen involved new methods. Kapoor says that in *The Zoya Factor* rather than conveying her thoughts through voiceovers which was an approach used extensively in *Aisha*, it was decided that they would use piece to camera moments, episodes where her character breaks the fourth wall and speaks to the camera directly.

Entertainment unlimited
Kapoor describes *The Zoya Factor* as quirky and easy-going, a film that concerns itself with how superstitious cricketers are and how affected by cricket India is. "When something is result-based, you need to repeat it," she says alluding to the central theme of the film. It is the kind of film that she has not done in a while. "The last one that I did was *Khoobsurat*," she says. While explaining that she can only work with people she enjoys being around, Kapoor shares that she felt the need to make a light and entertaining film because of the present atmosphere in the world. "I gravitated towards it because I wanted something that was simple. This is the kind of commercial film I'd do where you can

forget about the stressful situations in life," she elaborates. She believes that most young people in India now need a temporary break from everything going on around them and the film will offer that respite. It is a film that, "I would like to go to with my girlfriends and eat popcorn. And where I will not have to think about global warming and divisive politics for two hours of the day," she states.

But preparing for the film brought its share of challenges. The actor recalls an incident where she ended up getting her hair burnt when she went to get it permed for the role.

Weighty issues
She explains that one is meant to apply a protector on the hair before putting the perm solution, a step that was neglected by the hairstylist. Although some of it has grown back since the incident, she points to the bit that still carries the damage. "My hair was my pride," she says sadly.

The actor also gained 10

kilos for the role to match the character's description in the book and shares that although she generally has a hard time keeping the weight on when stressed or working, it has been difficult losing it this time.

Kapoor hopes to work in the future with directors like Shimit Amin and Imtiaz Ali while also wishing to return to filmmakers she has already collaborated with. "I really hope to do a horror film one day," she says between laughing while talking about her desire to scream and get scared on screen as she has not done that yet.

Book to screen:
Sonam Kapoor describes *The Zoya Factor* as quirky and easy-going
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



POP-UP

Karavalli comes to Varq

On the 11th anniversary Taj's Delhi restaurant, a Bengaluru favourite comes to celebrate



Last year, chef Naren Thimmaiah, along with a few fellow chefs went to Kasargod, in north Kerala, to learn what a women's self-help group was doing with jackfruit. Inspired, they came back to introduce several new items on the menu at Karavalli, ranging from an evening snack of a steamed batter of rice-rava, jackfruit pulp, jaggery, coconut bits, cardamom; to a jackfruit-seed stir-fry.

"That's what we do – homestyle cooking, with minimal garnish and plating," says Naren, who was on the founding team of Karavalli, the 29-year-old Bengaluru restaurant that came into being with a push by Camellia Panjabi, who has set up and run some of the most iconic places that serve Indian food.

"In those days Indian food meant a 'restaurant-safe' menu: dal makhni, chicken tikka, and maybe a chicken Chettinad, and then you'd find a vegetarian option with baby corn or mushroom, whether it suited the dish or not," says Naren. So bringing coastal cuisine from the South-West coast was considered both an experiment and a risk. It proved to be a success, and over the years, the repertoire has expanded to include cuisines from about 100km inland, so those from Coorg and Central Kerala as well as community-based food.

What has encouraged them along the way, says Naren, is when people would come, eat the food at Karavalli and say, 'This is great, but my aunt makes it better,' after which the team would get on the phone with the aunt to learn how she did it.

This is what Delhi eaters can expect from the pop-up: There's no modernisation, tweaking, toning down, or ostentatious plating (though the restaurant that will host it, Varq, does just this). What helped the restaurant at the time of its birth will probably help it today: people who have started travelling and eating different kinds of foods. Last year they did pop-ups in Mumbai, Kolkata, and Hyderabad.

The reason it hasn't been easy to replicate it anywhere else before is that every ingredient for the 80+ dishes on the original menu is picked carefully. "I was just on the phone with my chefs from Mumbai and Delhi, discussing how to source Kundapur coconut (known for its thick, fleshy coconuts that give great body to gravies)," he says, explaining that even when a fast-food chain that mass-produces its food enters a new market they take a few years to understand how to source to get just the right flavour and consistency.

Some of the star dishes of 46 to expect are: Crab Milagu Fry (with pepper masala), Tiger Prawns Roast (in a Kerala spice mix), Koli Barthad (chicken with Coorg masalas and vinegar, the chef's mother's recipe), Oggaraneda Aritha Pundi (steamed rice dumplings flavoured with coconut and cumin), and more.

At Varq, The Taj Mahal Hotel, Mansingh Road; September 21st-28th; lunch 12:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.; dinner 7 p.m. - 11:45 p.m.
SUNALINI MATHEW

UNDER THE HAMMER

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FOOD SPOT



RAHUL VERMA

The festive season is upon us, and there is talk of *laddoo* and *modak*. But when I hear about Indian sweets, my mind wanders off to the east. One of my all-time favourites is the *Chhena Poda* of Odisha. I got to know of this truly sublime sweet – made of cheese curds (the *chhena*) – relatively late in life, and now I can't have enough of it. There was a time when it came to me all the way from Odisha in a special parcel. But now the sweet can be found in many parts of the city – including in Chittaranjan Park, where some Bengali sweet shops sell it.

As friends talked about *laddoos*, I thought of looking for Chhena Poda. I had heard about an Odisha restaurant somewhere near the Thyagaraj Sports Complex, and I pass the stadium often.

In search of an Odisha favourite

Even if it's a bit of a hunt-down, it is now possible to find some good Chhena Poda in Delhi

Last week, on my way from South Delhi to East Delhi, I decided to look for the eatery. I stopped to ask for directions, only to be asked to look out for a Jagannath Temple.

Opposite the stadium, there is a lane going towards the Lodhi Colony Railway Station. There is construc-

tion work happening there, so you will see a fence of blue prefab walls. I parked outside the fence, and walked in (though, I later realised, one can drive in, too). I turned right and continued to walk quite a bit. Finally, to my left, I saw the Jagannath Temple. I entered the premises and found a small canteen

right there. It offered only sweets and snacks; for Odia meals, I was told, I had to go to Dilli Haat.

In a display counter they had rasgullas (₹20 for a large one) and samosas, or *singara*-

ras, as they are called in east India (₹10 per piece). They had Chhena Goja (₹20) and, I was happy to see, Chhena Poda (₹50 for 100 g). Also on the menu are Alur (potato) Chop (₹10), Dahi Vada Alu Dum (₹40 for two; ₹25 for one) and Vada Ghugni (₹30).

I asked for Chhena Poda, Singara and Dahi Vada Alu Dum. I'd heard paeans sung to the Dahi Vada Alu Dum – an Odisha special, which is special indeed. The dish consists of vadas dunked in curd. To this, some pieces of curried, asafoetida (hing)-flavoured potatoes are added. This is topped with fried sev. Overall, the dish is different – delicious.

I like the *singara*, too,

which is vastly different from its northern counterpart. The potatoes are small, diced and fried, sometimes with bits of the skin, and tempered with peanuts. The flour casing is also thicker.

I rounded off my meal with the Chhena Poda, or roasted *chhena*. For this, *chhena* is kneaded with *sooji* (semolina flour) and sugar. This crumbly mixture is then baked. Originally, it was wrapped in sal leaves, and then roasted over a low fire for hours.

The sweet is sublime for several reasons. It is only mildly sweet, so you don't get the sticky, syrupy feeling that other sweets sometimes leave you with. Then, since it is roasted, it is wonderfully light. I love its crumbly texture, and the dark bits, which add colour and a sharpness to the dessert.

The festive season has begun. Ring in the Chhena Poda!

The writer is a seasoned food critic



All that's festive Singara (left) and the Dahi Vada Alu Dum
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



PERFORMANCE

Dhrupad music
Sumeet Anand Pandey, a renowned Dhrupad vocalist, will deliver a lecture-demonstration on Gauhar Vani, a Dhrupad tradition of Darbanga Gharana this evening. Dhrupad is the oldest surviving genre of Hindustani classical music. Gauhar Vani tradition of Dhrupad is about spirituality more than musical virtuosity.
VENUE: Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.



SCREENING

F.R.I.E.N.D.S fest
DLF Cyberhub along with LBB, a local discovery platform, are jointly hosting a three-day fest dedicated to honour the completion of 25 years of F.R.I.E.N.D.S., a popular television show from the '90s. Starting today the festival will screen 10 selected episodes of the show. The fest ends on Sunday.
VENUE: Amphitheatre, DLF Cyberhub
TIME: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.



LECTURE

Music appreciation
Tomasz Pajak, a Poland-born violinist who teaches at the Delhi School of Music, will deliver an illustrated lecture titled 'Western Classical Music in the Mirror of Time' this evening. Pajak will introduce and talk about the distinctive styles of each musical era, interspersed with musical recordings.
VENUE: Lecture Room-II, Basement Annexe, IIC
TIME: 6:30 p.m.



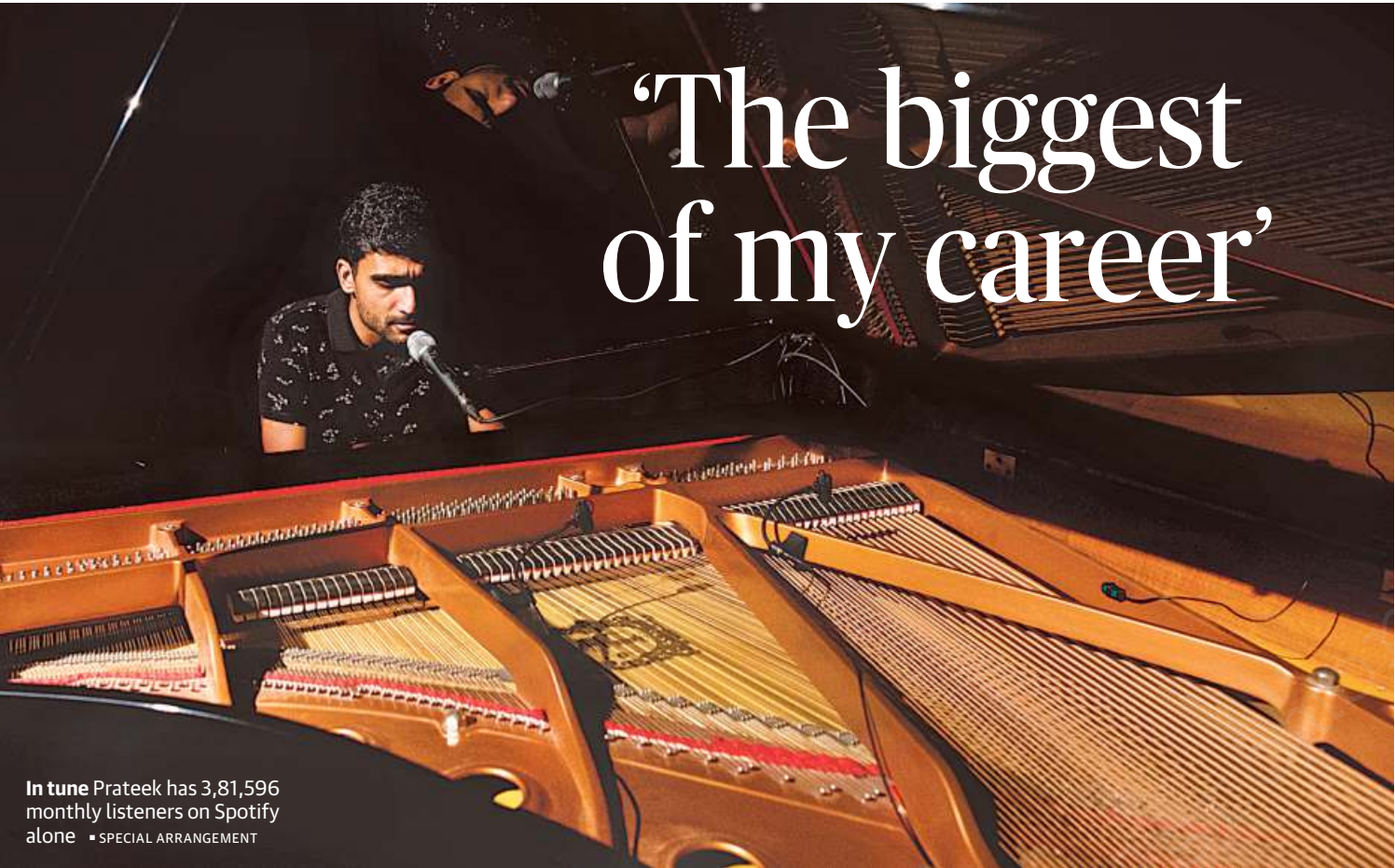
THEATRE

Hindi drama
The NSD Repertory Company will stage a Hindi play called *Jaat Hi Puchho Sadhu Ki*, this evening. Directed by Rajinder Nath, this is a Hindi adaptation of Vijay Tendulkar's Marathi play *Pahije Jatiche*. It depicts the broken dreams of the young protagonist, Mahipat Babruvahan, who belongs to a so-called low caste.
VENUE: NSD, Bhagwandas Road
TIME: 6:30 p.m.



GIG

Bollywood songs
Saints N Sinners is hosting the Delhi-based Bollywood fusion band, The Toll Road. Previously known as Zephyr, the band consists of Sahil Nagpal as the lead vocalist, Karan Bedi on the guitar, and Sparsh Sangam on the drums. Hindi music forms the band's core repertoire, as they dabble in rock, acoustic, and pop.
VENUE: GF-21 Global Foyer, Sector 43, Gurugram
TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.



Prateek Kuhad’s Supermoon tour is pretty much sold out. Ahead of his gig in the city, he talks about the spirit of his sound, and the value of digital platforms

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Prateek Kuhad is no ordinary 29-year-old. While most of that age are looking for answers in life, Prateek is belting them out on a stage to thousands of fans at a time. The next time, at his Supermoon Tour which kicks off in Hyderabad on October 10, and travels across the country through the year (the Delhi gig is scheduled on December 22). It is the biggest in his career so far, he says, adding, “I’m hopefully a healthy mix of both nervous and excited!”

Right from the start of his career, this Jaipur native has been adamant about disassociating from the ‘brown musician’ tag.

Now four albums old, he left the independent music scene behind two years ago. So ask him about the indie music scene on an industry level, and he admits he won’t have much to say.

Of lilts and live sets
His 2018 album *cold/mess* – a fun surprise for long-waiting fans – comprised the first batch of songs he had released since *In Tokens & Charms* in 2015.

cold/mess, quietly recorded and assembled in Nashville, offered a switch in mood, with upturned lilts in rhythm. A lot of this was due to working more with a piano.

More recently, our ears pricked up at the Delhi-dweller’s work on Netflix’s series *Little Things* and Dulquer Salmaan- and Irrfan Khan-starrer *Karwaan* (2018).

He hopes his crossover to film

SUPERMOON TOUR DATES

Hyderabad	October 10
Chennai	October 11
Kolkata	October 13
Surat	October 16
Ahmedabad	October 17
Chandigarh	October 18
Jaipur	October 20
Pune	October 25
Mumbai	December 18
Bengaluru	December 20
Delhi	December 22

and television, has impacted his musical approach, adding, “I find it hard to judge that for myself. I would want my creative approach to constantly evolve – but that cannot be a forced change, it has to happen naturally.”

It is no secret his fans are big on his folksy arrangements melded with contemporary beats. But his messages are universal, often deeply personal. Relationships and romance are recurring themes, and as ideologies around those evolve over time, Prateek’s compositions do too. “I don’t actively have anything reflect in my music – it is what it is, and especially for music that I release on my own, the subject matter is a lot more fluid, instinctive, and organic compared to a commissioned song.”

As niche as his sound is, fans are not. They hail from various corners of the country and have diverse music tastes. That said, he does not mould his gigs to where he’s performing. “We are trying to take the overall production quality and performance to the next level, but beyond that there is nothing ‘experimental.’”

Just this March, Prateek per-

formed at SXSW in Texas. He even played at numerous indie festivals around India. “Festivals don’t let you mould your set – set-list, set length, stage production, sound – beyond a point,” he elaborates. “With my own tour, I can do a lot more and give a much better performance because I have a lot more creative control.”

Industry bites
While his tour is sold out on digital platforms in which Prateek’s tunes are available for streaming, offer an alternative. On Spotify alone, he has 3,81,596 monthly listeners.

Given his exposure to Bollywood – in addition to *Karwaan*, he’s also done a track with Jasleen Royal, for the 2016 film *Baar Baar Dekho* – Prateek is lucky in that he has seen both sides of a prickly fence in the music industry –one for independent artistes and the other for those with long-term record deals.

“Artistes’ rights are relatively better on digital platforms compared to the older [contracts with] major label/production houses. The democratisation of arts and music across the board has been an incredible thing for the world.”

We are all stardust

Indie singer Nikhil D’Souza’s first non-Bollywood Hindi single ‘Sitaare’ is a soulful ode to destiny

SWETA AKUNDI

In the vast, vast galaxy, as a thousand stars look on, an astronaut meets a woman. This freshly-painted mural at SB Road, Bandra, marks the release of indie singer Nikhil D’Souza’s latest single, ‘Sitaare’.

“In the end, we are all stardust.” Nikhil does not remember where he picked up the phrase from, but it stuck with him. So much that it led him to compose his first non-Bollywood Hindi song. Until now, the singer, known for hits such as ‘Shaam’ and ‘O Gujariya’, had been making independent music in English, released in the UK, with backing from Warner Music.

English, or Hindi, at its core ‘Sitaare’ retains what makes a song essentially Nikhil: happy lyrics and soulful rendering. The song appeals to one’s sense of fate, and the concept of ‘soulmates’ – that some people are destined to meet, whether they end up together or not. “I had the essential idea for the song in mind. Then I met Pinky Poonawala, and over many sessions of coffee, we wrote the song,” he says. The song’s lyricist, Pinky has written for Coke Studio’s ‘Benaam Khwaayishein’ by Papon.

Nikhil worked with musician Rohan Rammanna on the song, which he calls ‘fortuitous’, as the two have been following each other’s work for a long time. “I had the chorus in mind first. So I played it on just the guitar, and sent it to Rohan. He got the vibe of the song, and what I wanted to do with it on the very first listen,” he says.

It was important for Nikhil to work with someone like Rohan – who didn’t come from a Bollywood background. “It needed to sound like it’s coming from an original space,” says the singer, who is now trying to make a mark in the Hindi indie music scene. Despite having released many independent English songs so far – his last EP, ‘Simple Kind of Love’ was out a year ago – he ad-

mits that to truly establish himself in the UK, he would have to move there. But while he is here, he plans to release more songs in Hindi. “I would like to work with lyricists such as Amitabh Bhattacharya,” he says.

Another step towards expanding the independent music scene, and encouraging musicians who want to follow in his footsteps, is his participation with Nexa Music. Spearheaded by maestro AR Rahman and composer Clinton Cerejo, it will give a platform for upcoming English-language indie musicians. These musicians will get to perform with Nikhil, Anushka Manchanda and Uday Benegal.

“Nexa Music is bringing big money into the independent music scene. What was lacking earlier in English indie was the budget for great looking videos and quality recording,” he says, adding, “The three of us have already put out videos for Nexa, and we will be doing a tour with the other winners.”

‘Sitaare’ will be out on YouTube and Spotify on September 21



Here and there Nikhil has also been releasing his English songs in the UK • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



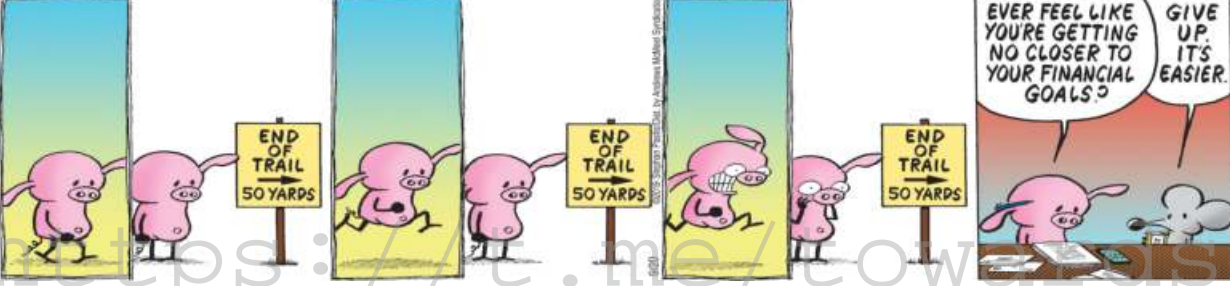
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WUMO



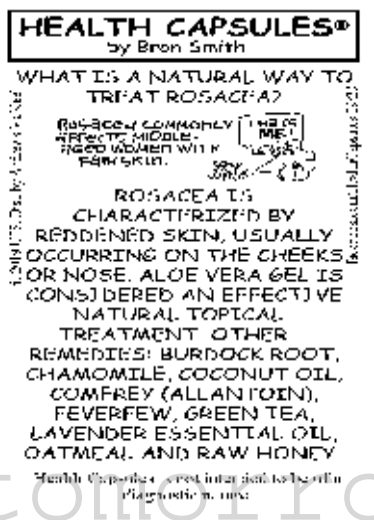
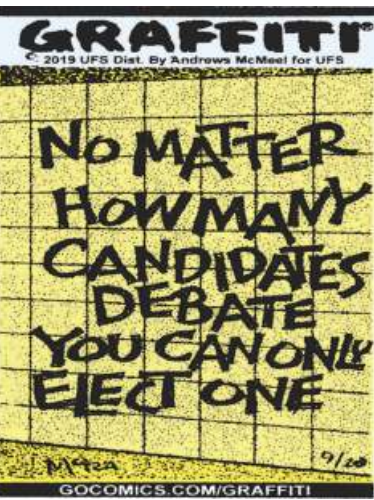
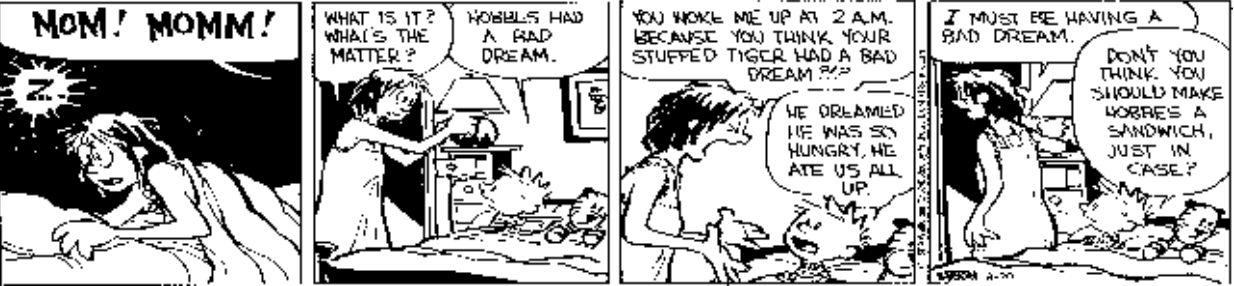
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13179

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 - 3 Sloppy (8)
 - 9 Ice cream flavour (7)
 - 10 Secure room – spring over (5)
 - 11 Test(ing) of a substance, such as precious metal (5)
 - 12 Fool (6)
 - 14 Understanding (13)
 - 17 Fasten securely (6)
 - 19 Kind of crossing? (5)
 - 22 Truth assumed to be self-evident (5)
 - 23 Involving controversy – compile (anag) (7)
 - 24 Woman on the prowl, like the goddess Diana? (8)
 - 25 Open grassland of southern Africa (4)
- Down
- 1 Aberration (8)
 - 2 Connections (5)

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Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 21, 2019. Solution No. 13178

India not unbeatable, says Bavuma

Feels that South Africa can take a lot of positives from the second T20I

SA IN INDIA

RAKESH RAO
MOHALI

Taking responsibility surely comes easily for a not-so-young T20 debutant Temba Bavuma. Minutes after South Africa's seven-wicket defeat in the second T20I match, the 29-year-old minced no words in owning responsibility for the team's sub-par total on a good batting surface.

Coming in at No. 3 in the fourth over, Bavuma looked good until he failed to rotate the strike in the later part and eventually departed for a 43-ball 49 in the 18th.

"When David (Miller) came in at No. 5, I think in the 13th over, we were in a very strong position. That's where we probably fumbled a bit in our batting cause. At the halfway stage, I was thinking 180 at least – that could be a very competitive score. But yeah, we just weren't able to get going.

"I'm the one to be blamed. I wasn't really able to get the momentum. I thought the platform was really set for the boys to go and do their thing."

Talking about the Indian



Blowing it away: Debutant Temba Bavuma, who scored 49, took responsibility for South Africa's inability to sustain the momentum after the 12th over. • AKHILESH KUMAR

team, the first black African to score a Test century for South Africa said, "They're a formidable team but I don't think they're not an unbeatable side. With our batting, it was just one phase where we

let ourselves down and a quality side like that would make us pay."

Looking ahead, Bavuma said, "I think there's always a moment in the game where we can win. For us, it's more

about being aware of those moments and making sure we're in the right mental space to win those moments. It's something that we can work on. I don't think we were completely outplayed

in the game. There are a lot of positives that we can take forward from this game."

Easy at the death overs

Deepak Chahar, who impressed with figures of 4-0-22-2 after three overs in the PowerPlay, revealed, "I find it easy to bowl death overs because, in the PowerPlay, you only get two fielders outside the circle. However, after the PowerPlay, you get five fielders outside."

It may be recalled that in this year's Indian Premier League, Chennai Super Kings' skipper M.S. Dhoni made Chahar bowl his quota upfront in one spell.

The Rajasthan bowler was quick to acknowledge the confidence he got from the IPL. "It benefited me. Whenever you do well in a match, you get confidence."

Chahar, among the aspirants for place in Indian team for the 2020 T20 World Cup, said, "I take every match as my last match. At this time, Indian cricket is at the top and if you want to find a spot, you will have to do very good and, that too, in every match because there is a lot of competition."

IPL brand valued at \$6.8 billion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The US-based consultancy company Duff & Phelps has said that the Indian Premier League's brand value has registered a 7% growth – from \$6.3 billion (₹41,800 crore) in 2018 to \$6.8 billion (₹47,500) in 2019. This is the company's sixth edition of IPL's annual study.

The study also put Mumbai Indians' value at \$809 crore, reflecting an 8.5% growth in 2019 and Chennai Super Kings at ₹732 crore reflecting a 13.1%. Kolkata Knight Riders' (₹630 crore) and Royal Challengers Bangalore's (₹595 crore) value has declined by almost 8%, the report said.

The report also said that Sunrisers Hyderabad has made steady gains over the years in terms of its brand value while Delhi Capitals, on the back of its on-field performances in 2019, saw an appreciation of 9% on brand value.

Shock wins for Manav, Ayhika

ASIAN TT

SPORTS BUREAU
YOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

Manav Thakkar and Ayhika Mukherjee created a flutter at the Asian table tennis championships on Thursday. While Manav, ranked 163rd in the world, defeated Japanese Kazuhiro Yoshimura (world ranking 34) 10-12, 11-13, 16-14, 11-4, 11-9 in the third round, Ayhika scripted a 6-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9 win over Chen Szu-Yu of Taipei, ranked 23rd in the world.

Sharath Kamal and Harmeet Desai, however, bowed out. In doubles, G. Sathiyar and Sharath made it to the last eight, beating Mahfooth Sayed Murtadha and Rashed Rashed of Bahrain 11-8, 11-6, 11-3. In the mixed event, both the Sharath-Manika and Sathiyar-Archana pairs lost.

Other results: Men (third round, round-of-64): G. Sathiyar bt Dominic Song Jun (SGP) 11-6, 11-4, 11-5; A. Amalraj bt Mohammed Alsharif (KSA) 11-4, 11-5, 11-4.

Women (second round, round of 64): Manika Batra bt Al Xin Tee (MAS) 11-8, 11-9, 11-8; Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Sikka Suwal (Nep) 11-4, 11-3, 11-6; Madhurika Patkar bt Regine Kim (Uzb) 11-3, 11-8, 11-3; Ayhika Mukherjee bt Chen Szu-Yu (Tpe) 6-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9; Archana Kamath bt Cruz Kheith Rhynne (Phi) 11-7, 11-6, 11-5.

Markram, Mulder toy with Indian attack

SA-A IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL
MYSURU

Aiden Markram (161, 253b, 20x4, 2x6) and Wiaan Mulder (131 n.o., 230b, 17x4, 1x6) got into the groove ahead of the Test series, with authoritative knocks on the penultimate day of the second 'Test' between India-A and South Africa-A here on Thursday.

The duo powered South Africa-A to 400, 17 runs short of India-A's first-innings total. The home side moved to 13 for no loss, before rain forced play to be called off.

Markram and Mulder, both expected to play central roles for the senior team, toyed with the India-A attack. The duo put on 155 for the sixth wicket, and save for a couple of leg-before shouts, never looked in trouble.

The entertaining stand was eventually broken by pacer Mohammed Siraj, when Markram edged one onto the stumps. Markram, 83 overnight, brought up his 11th First Class century with a textbook cover-driven 4 off Siraj.

Mulder, touted as the heir to Jacques Kallis' all-rounder throne, was a picture of elegance. Much like Markram, he neatly moved his front



Going great guns! Aiden Markram made the Indians toil, hitting 20 fours and two sixes. • G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

foot to the pitch of the ball and presented a straight bat.

As the Markram-Mulder partnership grew, the Indians began to lose focus. Siraj and Umesh Yadav often strayed in line, drifting onto the pads to offer easy runs. The short balls carried no bite, resulting in ferocious pulls.

Chinaman bowler Kul-

deep Yadav – named in the senior India Test squad – picked up four wickets, but was largely unimpressive. He frequently overpitched outside off, allowing the batsmen to free their arms.

Kuldeep was left shaken in the afternoon session, when Markram and Mulder smashed him for one straight six each in the same

over. Later on, tailender Dane Piedt hoicked Kuldeep for a six over mid-wicket, but this time, Kuldeep came back strongly to dislodge Piedt's stumps off the next delivery.

Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem kept it tight, and finished with figures of three for 76 in 31.3 overs.

The scores:

India-A – 1st innings:

South Africa-A – 1st innings: Aiden Markram b Siraj 161, Pieter Malan c Saha b Siraj 6, Theunis de Bruyn b Nadeem 41, K. Zondo lbw b Nadeem 5, Senuuran Muthusamy b Kuldeep 12, Heinrich Klaasen c&b Kuldeep 2, Wiaan Mulder (not out) 131, Vernon Philander c Karun b Dube 21, Dane Piedt b Kuldeep 11, Lutho Sipamla lbw b Kuldeep 0, Lungi Ngidi lbw b Nadeem 0; Extras (nb-1, b-5, lb-4): 10. Total (in 109.3 overs): 400.

Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-102, 3-118, 4-136, 5-142, 6-297, 7-356, 8-395, 9-399.

India-A bowling: Umesh 18-3-73-0, Siraj 18-2-72-2, Nadeem 31.3-6-76-3, Kuldeep 29-3-121-4, Saxena 5-1-13-0, Dube 8-0-36-1.

India-A – 2nd innings: Priyank Panchal (batting) 8, Abhimanyu Easwaran (batting) 5; Total (for no loss in 5.1 overs): 13.

South Africa-A bowling: Philander 2-1-1-0, Ngidi 2-0-10-0, Piedt 1-0-2-0, Muthusamy 0-1-0-0.

Juventus denied, PSG beats Real



In the nick of time! Hector Herrera, second left, scores the 90th-minute equaliser. • REUTERS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

REUTERS

MADRID

Atletico Madrid produced a typically spirited comeback from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Juventus in a thrilling finale to Wednesday's heavyweight Champions League Group D opener.

Mexico midfielder Hector Herrera levelled in the 90th minute with a thumping header from a corner after defender Stefan Savic had pulled a goal back for the Spaniards in the 70th with a header from close range following a free-kick.

Lokomotiv Moscow tops Group D after beating Bayer Leverkusen 2-1 away. Manchester City eased to

Kuldeep in transition mode

Need to make the most of available chances, says spinner

ASHWIN ACHAL
MYSURU

Not too long ago, the India team management backed wrist-spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav to carry the mantle of the white-ball spin attack.

Both have since fallen out of favour, finding no place in the squads for the last two T20I series.

Challenge

Kuldeep, however, has a chance to make a mark with the red ball, having been named in the Test squad to face South Africa. The change in format presents a challenge to Kuldeep, who has played little First Class cricket in recent times.

Turning out for India-A in the second 'Test' against South Africa-A gives Kuldeep the opportunity to find his rhythm.

"Playing red-ball cricket is difficult, especially when you are a regular in white-ball cricket. It was important for me to come here and bowl as many overs as possible. There is still plenty of work to do," Kuldeep said here on Thursday.

The 24-year-old has taken the white ball snub in posi-



Finding his rhythm: Kuldeep Yadav has to make up for the lack of First Class exposure before the Test series begins. • G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

tive spirit.

"I did well in white-ball cricket; my stats are good. Maybe the selectors feel they need to give me a break in Twenty20s, and that some changes are required. I respect that, and I have no complaints. I see this as an opportunity to do well in Tests," Kuldeep said.

Earning a spot in the playing eleven for the Test side is not guaranteed, as Kuldeep is competing with Ravindra Jadeja and R. Ashwin.

"When three spinners like Ashwin, Jaddu (Jadeja) and I are in the squad, it's challenging to pick the right

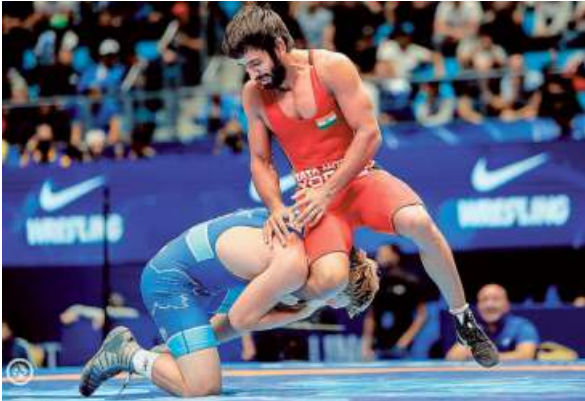
combination. You need to be ready to grab your chance. Of course, there is pressure because you only get a few chances, and you have to make full use of them," he said.

Honing his batting

One of the possible reasons for Kuldeep's ouster from the shorter format squads is his lack of batting prowess. It is a shortcoming that Kuldeep is working on.

"I've been working on my batting with (previous India batting coach) Sanjay Bangar. I feel my batting is good at the Test level," he said.

Bajrang loses in a controversial semifinal



Doing his best: Bajrang, in action against Slovenia's David Haba in the pre-quarters, bowed out in the last four. • PTI

WORLD WRESTLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Bajrang Punia lost his semifinal bout to home wrestler Daulet Niyazbekov under controversial circumstances, after securing his place in the Tokyo Olympics along with debutant Ravi Dahiya, at the World wrestling championships here on Thursday.

Bajrang's coach Shako Banitidis kicked the coach's block, protesting the partisan officiating during the 65kg bout, which ended 9-9 after a nerve-wracking six minutes.

Since Niyazbekov was gi-

ven a bigger throw of four points, he was declared winner.

Bajrang, the last edition's silver medalist, will fight for bronze on Friday.

Bajrang had beaten Poland's Krzysztof Bienkowski, Slovenia's David Haba before overcoming Korea's Jong Choi Son in the quarterfinals. Ravi lost his semifinal bout 6-4 to World champion Zaur Uguev from Russia. Ravi also made it to the Tokyo Olympics in 57kg after overcoming Korea's Sungwon Kim, Armenia's Arsen Harutunyan, Yuki Takahashi of Japan.

Among women, Sakshi and Divya Kakran lost.

Sri Lanka to go ahead with Pakistan tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka Cricket on Thursday said it would go ahead with the tour of Pakistan despite fears that players could be targets of terror attacks during the six-match visit.

SLC secretary Mohan de Silva said they received the all-clear from the defence ministry to leave for Pakistan on Tuesday. "We have the green light from the defence ministry," de Silva said.

"The tour is on as we planned. I myself and our office-bearers will also be accompanying the team," he said.

Dananjaya banned

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

Sri Lanka off-spinner Akila Dananjaya was, on Thursday, handed a 12-month ban by the ICC for an illegal bowling action. The decision was taken after an independent assessment.

The 25-year-old was assessed after the legality of his action came under question during the first Test against New Zealand in Galle in August.

He subsequently underwent an independent assessment in Chennai on August 29, which revealed that he bowled with an illegal bowling action.

Mirabai finishes fourth

SPORTS BUREAU
PATTAYA

Former World champion S. Mirabai Chanu bettered her own record as she lifted a total of 201kg to finish fourth in the women's 49kg of the World weightlifting championships on Thursday. The performance boosted her Tokyo Olympics chances significantly.

Mirabai lifted 87kg in snatch and 114kg in clean and jerk to get past the 200kg-mark for the first time in her career. Her previous best was in the Asian championships in Ningbo City, where she had done (86kg, 113kg) in April.

"We are satisfied with Mira's performance. We achieved our target of going past 200kg without exerting too much pressure. She can improve from here in the run-up to Tokyo," said National coach Vijay Sharma.

Wolff explains the rationale behind Bottas, Ocon decision

‘The swinging argument for me is that putting the French driver against Hamilton is not good for the former’

FORMULA ONE

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

The Formula One driver market is falling in place with news of Romain Grosjean staying at Haas for 2020 alongside Kevin Magnussen on Thursday. This leaves Nico Hulkenberg without a drive, a result of Esteban Ocon, the current Mercedes team third driver, moving to replace the former at Renault next year.

Ocon has been backed by Mercedes, which facilitated his F1 debut with Manor and then put him in Force India before he was forced out of a drive this year due to circumstances. However, the reigning

champion opted to stick with Valtteri Bottas for 2020 and decided to put Ocon at Renault.

Potential champion

The 23-year-old French driver is widely considered as a potential world champion material and was close to signing for the Renault last year as well before Daniel Ricciardo made a surprise move from Red Bull to the French manufacturer that left Ocon without a drive.

Explaining his decision in a chat with *The Hindu* during the Italian Grand Prix, Wolff said, “The swinging argument for me was, putting Ocon against Hamilton, who has been with Mercedes for seven years and is at the peak



Right choice: Manager Toto Wolff, centre, is fully convinced that sticking with Bottas, right, at Mercedes and having Ocon, right extreme, at Renault for the 2020 season is justified. •AFP

of his game, is not good for him, especially after sitting out one year. We might find

the story exciting and probably he(Ocon) would have done well but there is only



one guy who ever did well against a superstar and that was Lewis Hamilton himself

(in 2007 vs double champion Fernando Alonso at McLaren). All the other (drivers) needed time.

So I don't want to risk his (Ocon) career and I don't want to risk him trying to do something to win against Lewis. That was the tipping point.”

Perfect place to grow

The move to Renault, Wolff felt, gave Ocon the perfect place to grow, saying, “He can progress and benchmark himself against Daniel Ricciardo in a works team environment. He will be in the French team and it is very positive.”

When asked about Bottas, Wolff felt that the Finn had also improved his game and

brought harmony to the team. “We have seen great performances from Valtteri and his improvement slope is impressive. And you have to give him that because he is going against the best driver of modern time and he is able to put a fight quite often, especially in qualifying.”

“It is a very good mix we have. Both are very good drivers and the dynamic is positive. We are able to develop the team and develop critically while the exchanges between drivers are good.”

Harmony is something Toto Wolff would want especially after the three acrimonious years with Nico Rosberg and Hamilton finding themselves in some con-

trovery or the other during 2014-16.

Handling two stars

Talking about those years, Wolff shares the challenge of handling two stars. “The problem was we didn't understand the dynamics between them. They knew each other longer than we knew them. They were childhood companions. Racing from karting against each other and going through junior formulae together. So there was a lot of baggage from back then.”

“For us, it was very difficult to understand the dynamic. So from a rivalry, it escalated to controversy and that was not a good situation within the team.”

Mission Olympic quota

Annu targets two Asian medals and Tokyo berth

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Olympian Annu Raj Singh has two chances to win medals apart from another chance to win the Olympic quota place in the Asian Championship in Doha in November.

Annu Raj will participate in the air pistol and sports pistol events in Doha. The 14-year-old Esha Singh who had tied on averages with Annu Raj in women's air pistol, has been fielded in the junior section.

Since, Yashaswini Deswal and Manu Bhaker have already won the two Olympic quota places in air pistol, India will only be gunning for the sports pistol quota to add to the one won by Rahi Sarnobat.

In women's trap, former National champion Shreyasi Singh got the nod after she was in fourth place, 0.02 points behind Soumya Gupta. Recent good scores of 116 and 117 must have weighed in favour of Shreyasi, who will be looking for the Olympic quota along with Kirti Gupta and Rajeshwari Kumari.

The onus will be on Olympians Manavjit Singh Sandhu and Kynan Chenai, apart from Prithviraj Tondaiman, to secure the quota in men's



Annu Raj Singh.
•SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

trap. In skeet also, the responsibility will be in the hands of able men, Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan, Asian champion Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Smit Singh.

Second Olympic quota

Deepak Kumar along with Yash Vardhan and Kiran Ankush Jadhav will try to win the second Olympic quota in men's air rifle.

Olympian Chain Singh, the young Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar and Parul Kumar will go for the second Olympic quota, to the one won by Sanjeev Rajput in Rio, in the rifle 3-position event.

India has bright chances

in men's rapid fire pistol, thanks in particular to the efficiency of Anish Bhanwala and Adarsh Singh.

India will also be fielding junior and youth shooters in all the events meant for them.

The team in Olympic events:

Men: Air pistol: Saurabh Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma, Sharvan Kumar.

Rapid fire pistol: Anish Bhanwala, Bhavesh Shekhawat, Adarsh Singh.

Air rifle: Deepak Kumar, Yash Vardhan, Kiran Ankush Jadhav. **MQS:** Divyansh Singh Panwar, Sanjeev Rajput.

Rifle 3-position: Parul Kumar, Chain Singh, Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar. **MQS:** Sanjeev Rajput.

Trap: Manavjit Singh Sandhu, Kynan Chenai, Prithviraj Tondaiman.

Skeet: Angad Vir Singh Bajwa, Smit Singh, Mairaj Ahmad Khan.

Women: Air pistol: Yashaswini Singh Deswal, Manu Bhaker, Annu Raj Singh.

Sports pistol: Annu Raj Singh, Chinki Yadav, Neeraj Kaur. **MQS:** Rahi Sarnobat, Manu Bhaker.

Air rifle: Anjum Moudgil, Apurvi Chandela, Elavenil Valarivan. **MQS:** Mehuli Ghosh.

Rifle 3-position: Tejaswini Sawant, Gaayathri Nithyanandan, Kajal Saini.

Trap: Kirti Gupta, Rajeshwari Kumari, Shreyasi Singh. **MQS:** Soumya Gupta.

Skeet: Ganemart Sekhon, Saniya Sheikh, Darshna Rathore.

Ramkumar advances

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
GLASGOW (UNITED KINGDOM)

Ramkumar Ramanathan cruised past Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-1 in the pre-quarterfinals of the 46,600 Challenger in Glasgow on Thursday.

The fifth-seeded Ramkumar converted four of five breakpoints that he forced, and did not face a breakpoint, in reaching the quarterfinals.

Prajnesh bows out

Meanwhile, second seed Prajnesh Gunneswaran was beaten 5-7, 7-5, 6-4 by Enrique Lopez Pere of Spain in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$162,480 Challenger tennis tournament in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.

Prajnesh collected \$2,580 and 10 ATP points.

In the ATP Tour event in St. Petersburg, Divij Sharan and Igor Zelenay of Slovakia beat the third seeds Marcelo Demoliner and Matwe Middelkoop 3-6, 6-2, 10-5 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals.

The results: \$1,248,645 ATP, St. Petersburg, Russia: First round: Igor Zelenay (Svk) & Divij Sharan bt Marcelo Demoliner (Bra) & Matwe Middelkoop (Ned) 3-6, 6-2, [10-5].

€586,140 ATP, Metz, France: First round: Gerard Granollers & Marcel Granollers (Esp) bt Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela

(Mex) & Purav Raja 6-3, 6-4.

\$162,480 Challenger, Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei: Second round: Enrique Lopez Perez (Esp) bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran 5-7, 7-5, 6-4. **Doubles: First round:** Chun-Hsin Tseng & Tung-Lin Wu (Tpe) bt Sriram Balaji & Vishnu Vardhan 6-4, 7-6(6).

€46,600 Challenger, Glasgow, United Kingdom: Second round: Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Botic van de Zandschulp (Ned) 6-4, 6-2; **Second round:** Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Altug Celikbilek (Tur) 6-4, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Nanchang, China: Second round: Ryota Tanuma (Jpn) bt Prithvi Sekhar 6-0, 6-0; Kaza Vinayak Sharma bt Pol Wattanakul (Tha) 6-0, 6-4; Dusty Boyer (US) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar 6-1, 7-5. **Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Luca Castelnuovo (Sui) & Anirudh Chandrasekar bt Pol Wattanakul (Tha) & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-2, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo, Egypt: Second round: Edoardo Lavagno (Ita) bt Dhruv Sunish 6-3, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF men, Antalya, Turkey: Quarterfinals: Kelsey Stevenson (Can) & Adil Kalyanpur bt Lasse Muschietti & Sebastian Prechtel (Ger) 6-4, 3-6, [10-7].

\$25,000 ITF women, Roehampton, Britain: Second round: Emily Appleton & Emily Arbutnot (GBR) bt Julia Terziyska (Bul) & Prarthana Thombare 6-4, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF women, Anning, China: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Oleksandra Oliynykova (Cro) & Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Jiaxi lu & Dan Ni Wang (Chn) 3-6, 6-3, [10-3].

‘The beginning of a very exciting era for Australia’



Way to go, mate! Australia captain Tim Paine, right, was all praise for the injured Peter Siddle's work ethic. •AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

Captain Tim Paine has predicted a “very exciting era” for Australian cricket after the team retained the Ashes against England, while revealing he broke his thumb in the final Test.

“I’m looking forward to Australia seeing how far we’ve come this summer,” Paine said in a column for *The Australian* newspaper, referring to upcoming home Tests against Pakistan and New Zealand.

“Last year we were a bit lost and were finding our way,” he said after the side struggled in the wake of the

ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

“I know we have found it now and I am confident this group is the beginning of a very exciting era in Australian cricket.

“We’ve got the best bowling attack in the world and the basis for a great batting line-up.”

A freak

Paine called Smith “a freak” while also praising Marnus Labuschagne as having “a huge future” after he too enjoyed a stellar tour with the bat.

But he revealed the last Test was a struggle for him-

self and fast bowler Peter Siddle.

“My thumb was broken towards the end of that Test but it is not displaced, so I should be right back into training early,” said Paine, while praising workhorse Siddle who was battling a hip injury.

“He has copped a bit of criticism for not bowling as well as... we know he can, but the team knows just how heroic he was. A lot of other people wouldn’t have bowled again in the match, but he pushed on because he didn’t want to leave Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins to do extra work,” he said.

Vikram in last eight

SPORTS BUREAU
LONDON (CANADA)

Top seed Vikram Mlhotra, after a bye in the first round, beat unseeded Alex Noakes of England 11-5, 11-5, 11-3 to enter the quarterfinals of the Nash Cup squash tournament, a PSA event here late on Wednesday.

The Indian is scheduled to play Reiko Peter of Switzerland next.

Three Indians in quarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANDALAY

Pankaj Advani scored a 5-2 win over Pakistan's Zulfiqar Qadir to enter the quarterfinals of the IBSF World 6-red snooker championship on Thursday.

Earlier, Advani beat another Pakistani Muhammad Ahsan Javaid with a 5-1 victory in the last-32 stage.

Laxman Rawat, who beat Gao Yang of China, and Pushpender Singh, who defeated Thailand's Kritsanut Lertsattayathorn 5-4, also joined Advani in the quarterfinals.

Advani will take on Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon of Thailand, while Laxman faces Hong Kong's Cheung Ka Wai and Pushpender will be up against Thet Min Lin of Myanmar.

In women's championship, Ameer Kamani will play Ng On Yee of Hong Kong in the semifinals.

Ashique Kuruniyan — fast and furious

Skipper Sunil Chhetri feels India has a potential superstar in its ranks

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

Ashique Kuruniyan has always wanted to don the colours of Bengaluru FC. “I came here with the India U-19 team [in 2014-15] for a few friendlies against BFC,” he recalls. “I was not in the starting XI and didn’t get much time. Three players from our team later signed for BFC. I had hoped they would select me, but it didn’t happen.”

Four years since, with his stock in India at its highest, the exciting 22-year-old winger has had his wish fulfilled, putting pen to paper on a four-year deal. “Some of India’s best players are here. We know how good the coach is and we are the defending champions. It’s a dream come true,” he says.

Humble beginning

But growing up, none of this even figured in his thoughts. Hailing from a humble family in Malappuram, Kerala, he dropped out of school early and on occasions even worked in a sugarcane shop to help his family.

“My brothers helped me a lot. In Kerala you have to study till 12th. Everything else comes later. But if you end up studying till 12th and then start playing, it won’t work. My family supported me fully. Even minor financial troubles, they helped out.”

Though a natural athlete, Kuruniyan became a footballer only by chance. “I used to be a sprinter. I was first in my school and dis-



Making a mark: Though a natural athlete, Kuruniyan became a footballer only by chance. • M. VEDHAN

trict. But my school once needed a left-winger. So my PE teacher told me, ‘just like how you run 100m, run here and cross the ball.’ That is how it started.”

“My only dream then was to play for the district team. It might not seem big now, but it was important for me. Now when you dream, it might be about playing

abroad, playing in the ISL, etc. But back then it was just about the district team. Then it became the State team, then Pune FC, then National U-19 team and so on.”

In particular, Kuruniyan picks those years in Kerala’s famed seven-a-side tournaments as being central to his development. “I learnt to

play tough. There are no red cards there. Only yellow. The referee doesn’t even have a red card. It is very rough and you get hit a lot. Initially there was a lot of fear – of getting hit by the elbow, etc. So I had to become stronger.”

Different pressures The pressures in the ISL, though, will be of a different kind. A potential attacking trident at BFC featuring him, Sunil Chhetri and Udanta Singh, has already raised expectations. It is something fans have already had a glimpse of in the Indian National team, where Kuruniyan has been capped close to a dozen times.

Luck to the opponents

“I can just say all the best to all the full-backs who are going to play against us,” Chhetri says. “Ashique is naive... in the sense that he doesn’t understand what pressure is. Tell him ‘do this, this, this,’ and he will do that. As raw as he is, he is just pure talent.”

“He is fast and powerful and is scared of no one.

“He just plays with the motive of going forward. If he does what we think he can do and learns quickly, you will see a proper superstar for the country.”

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Rugby World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
World wrestling: Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
T20 tri-series: Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 6 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

IN BRIEF

Genzebe Dibaba out of Worlds
PARIS
Genzebe Dibaba, the 2015 champion and World record holder in the women's 1,500m, will miss the World Championships, to be held from Sept. 27, due to a foot injury, the Ethiopian said on Instagram. AFP

Kohli to stay as RCB captain
BENGALURU
Mike Hesson and Simon Katich, the Director of Cricket Operations at Royal Challengers Bangalore and the head coach respectively, made it clear here on Thursday that Kohli would continue as leader despite the team's poor showing over the last three seasons.

Suraj stops Kunal, meets Ishaque in final
LUDHIANA:
Suraj Prabodh brought an end to the fine run of qualifier and top seed Kunal Anand with a 6-1, 7-6(4) defeat in the semifinals of the ₹250,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at the Harvest Tennis Academy, Jassowal, on Thursday.
In the final, Suraj will play second seed Ishaque Eqbal who beat fourth seed Jatin Dahiya 6-1, 7-5.
In the doubles final, top seeds Mohit Mayur and Ishaque Eqbal beat the Sood twins, Chandril and Lakshit, 10-5 in the super tie-break.

TN, Railways in last four
PASIGHAT (ARUNACHAL)
Kamala Devi slotted in six goals as Railways thrashed Himachal Pradesh 12-0 in the quarterfinals of the senior National women's football on Thursday. A brace each by R. Ranjitha and R. Pandiselvi enabled TN beat MP 4-2.

India slips to 104th spot in FIFA rankings
ZURICH
The Indian football team slipped a place to 104th spot in the latest FIFA rankings released on Thursday.



Oh no! Sindhhu squandered a one-game advantage against Pornpawee. ■ REUTERS

Sindhhu loses her way

Sai Praneeth enters the quarterfinals

CHINA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANGZHOU
Reigning World champion P.V. Sindhhu made an early exit from the China Open but B. Sai Praneeth kept the Indian flag flying with a hard-fought straight-game win to reach the quarterfinals here on Thursday.
Sindhhu, an Olympic silver medalist, squandered a first-game advantage to go down 12-21, 21-13, 21-19 to Thailand's Pornpawee Chuchuwong in a women's pre-quarterfinals that lasted 58 minutes here.
Praneeth, who had claimed a bronze medal at Basel, edged out China's Lu Guang Zu 21-19, 21-19 to set up a meeting against Indonesian seventh seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting.

Ginting beat India's P. Kashyap 23-21, 15-21, 21-12 in a thrilling contest.
Double whammy
Doubles specialist Satwiksai-ranj Rankireddy also had a dismal day as he suffered twin defeats, losing both the men's doubles and mixed doubles pre-quarterfinals.
In men's doubles, Satwik and Chirag Shetty, ranked 15th in the world, ran out of steam after a decent start against fourth-seeded Japanese pair of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda and went down 19-21, 8-21.
Satwik then paired up with Ashwini Ponanappa but the duo couldn't get past Yuki Kaneko and Misaki Matsutomo, losing 11-21, 21-16, 12-21 to the Japanese pair.
Ashwini also tasted defeat with N. Sikki Reddy, 12-21, 17-21, to second-seeded Japa-

nese pair of Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi.
Sindhhu, who came into the match with a 3-0 head-to-head against Pornpawee, dominated the first game as she lead 7-1, but the Thai reduced the deficit to 10-11 at the break.
However, Sindhhu reeled off eight straight points after the interval to jump to 19-10 and eventually sealed the first game comfortably.
Changing gears
In the second game, Pornpawee changed gears and came up trumps. The decider started on an even note, but Sindhhu held an 11-7 cushion at the break.
However, Pornpawee kept breathing down Sindhhu's neck and slowly moved to 15-19. From there, the Thai shuttler blasted six points to leave the Indian shocked.

Peerless inches closer to the crown

CFL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA
Peerless SC moved another step closer to claiming its first crown in the Calcutta Football League's premier division 'A', downing Bhowanipur FC 2-0 in its eighth outing of the league on Thursday.
The win took Peerless to 17 points from eight matches, giving it a point's lead ahead of its closest challenger Mohammedan Sporting, which beat defending champion Mohun 3-2.

Sporting has 16 points but has played a match more than Peerless. Having beaten both Bagan and East Bengal earlier, Peerless' final big challenge will be against Sporting.
With just two rounds to go for most teams in the top half of the standings, the chances of any team nudging Peerless out of the title race is dwindling. East Bengal, which lies fourth with 14 points from eight matches, remains the only side with a realistic chance of catching up with Peerless which has three games on hand.

Peerless took command early, hoisting the lead in the 14th minute through its Ghanaian attacker Edmond Peprah. The second-placed Bhowanipur, too, had its share of chances, but Peerless goalkeeper James Kithan made quite a few saves in the second half. Jiten Murmu scored the second in the 58th minute.
The result: Peerless SC 2 (Edmond Peprah 14, Jiten Murmu 58) bt Bhowanipur Club 0; Mohammedan Sporting 3 (Kareem Omolaja 7, Tirthankar Sarkar 10, John Chidi 61) bt Mohun Bagan 2 (Joseba Beitia 24, Salva Chamorro 70).

Indian boxing looking up again

Panghal and Kaushik bring in fresh hope

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Twenty-three-year-old soldiers Amit Panghal and Manish Kaushik – who advanced to the semifinals to ensure medals and help the country achieve its best-ever performance in the men's World boxing championships in Ekaterinburg, Russia, on Wednesday – presented the story of India's steady rise in the sport.
After Vijender Singh's World and Olympic medal winning performances, Indian boxing suffered four years of ignominy due to factionalism.
India, which had gathered only four bronze medals in the history of the event,

once again looked like a force to reckon with thanks to Panghal and Kaushik's good work.
While Panghal, an Asian Games and Asian championships gold medal winner, was one of the top contenders for a medal, Kaushik, who had claimed a silver in the 2018 Commonwealth Games, had a relatively low profile – known as Worlds medallist and former Asian champion Shiva Thapa's arch-rival.
Both fought their ways to be placed among the best in the business.
Good preparation
“I had no pressure. The preparation was good. The

support staff didn't let the pressure affect my game,” Panghal told *The Hindu*.
Panghal, who shifted from 49kg to 52kg this year to fit into the Olympic weight, worked on his power and stamina for the Worlds. “The performance here will help in the Olympic qualification event,” said Panghal, who rated his quarterfinal bout against Filipino Paalam Carlo as the toughest.
National champion Kaushik, who jumped from 60kg to 63kg, said beating two-time Olympian Thapa was a confidence-booster for him. “I thought if I could beat an accomplished boxer like Shiva, then I could do well here too. I coped with

my weight change well because of the good preparation. The acclimatization also helped.”
Kaushik took heart from his win over Asian bronze medal winner Chinzorig Baatarsukh in the pre-quarterfinals. “This Mongolian had beaten some Indians previously; I was the first one to beat him. That gives a lot of satisfaction. I felt the pressure as the quarterfinals was the last hurdle before getting a medal. “Now, I have to look at prospective opponents to prepare for the Olympic qualifier.”
Needless to say, the two will seek to earn India's first Worlds medal other than the bronze.

Hurricanes will look to blow away challenge

RUGBY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Defending champion Delhi Hurricanes will lead the challenge in the 89th edition of the all-India and South Asia rugby championship which will witness the top 12 teams of the country in action at the CC&FC from Saturday.
Bombay Gymkhana, the runner-up last year, will look to go one step further. Strong sides like Army Red and Maharashtra State Police will also be eager to lay

their hands on the trophy. Magician India Foundation, Bangalore RFC, Ace Foundation, Delhi Lions, Madurai Veerans, Jungle Crows, Kolkata Sergeants Institute and host CC&FC complete the list.
The event will also have the fourth edition of the Women's Rugby XV's, which will have defending champion Odisha RFC as the top side in the line-up of eight. The others in the fray are: Delhi Hurricanes, Bihar RFC, Rugby Association of Maharashtra, Adibasi RFC, Jungle Crows, Haryana Warriors and CC&FC.

Anas not entered in 400m

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

He has broken the National and had qualified for next week's World athletics championships in the 400m but strangely, the Athletics Federation of India has not entered Mohammed Anas in the individual event. His name figures only in the 4x400m relays, men and mixed, according to the provisional entry list for the Doha Worlds released by IAAF.

NEUFC ropes in Asamoah Gyan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

North East United FC (NEUFC) announced the signing of the star striker of Ghana Asamoah Gyan to complete the roster of foreigners ahead of the sixth season of the Indian Super League. Gyan, who wore the Ghanaian colours in three World Cups, is one of the biggest names to be roped in by any of the ISL outfits so far.
The former national captain of the Black Stars is the highest scorer for the national side with 51 goals, and played with equal efficiency

for the top Italian club Udinese, where he spent five seasons. The 33-year-old striker later played with French football club Stade Rennais FC and the English club Sunderland, before moving over to Asia. Gyan turned out for Dubai clubs like Al Ain and Al Ahli and played for Shanghai SIPG in the Chinese Super League.
The Guwahati-based team has also roped in the Croatian World Cupper Robert Jarni as the head coach for the upcoming season.
“I am extremely excited to start this new chapter in my career. I have heard great

things about North East United FC and the Indian Super League and I am thrilled to be a part of it for the upcoming season. I am confident that we can better the wonderful season the club had last year,” Gyan said in a statement issued by NEUFC.
The foreigners' line-up of NEUFC: Yuvan Nandal bt Ayushmaan Arjeria 6-1, 6-4; Agriya Yadav bt Vitin Rathee 6-3, 6-1; **Girls:** Nandini Dixit bt Riya Sachdeva 6-1, 6-3; Pari Singh bt Shruti Ahlawat 6-0, 6-4.

Psychic Force well tuned for a repeat in the Maharaja's Cup

MYSURU: Psychic Force, who is in fine nick, may score an encore in the Maharaja's Cup (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Friday (Sept 20).
False rails (width about 3m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.
1 RANGANATHITTU PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Power Of Shambhala (12) Rayan 60, 2. Sky Jasmine (8) Rajesh K 59, 3. Florencia (9) Chetan G 58.5, 4. Papadokia (5) Arshad 58, 5. Birthday Babe (2) Sai Kiran 57.5, 6. Chilly Breeze (10) Darshan 57, 7. Hananiah (3) S. Shareef 57, 8. Intrepid Warrior (7) I. Chisty 57, 9. Ispeldangertoaill (1) Janardhan P 57, 10. Masters Mind (6) L. Prashant 57, 11. The Corporal (4) Zervan 57 and 12. Cashmere (11) M. Naveen 56.5.

1. THE CORPORAL, 2. PAPADOKIA, 3. BIRTHDAY BABE

2 SHIMSHA PLATE (1,100m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30: 1. Aromatic (3) Nazar Alam 62.5, 2. Ayahuasca (1) S. Shareef 62.5, 3. Poker Queen (11) Madhu Babu 60.5, 4. Brave Admiral (8) Rajesh K 59, 5. Honey Queen (5) Sai Kiran 58, 6. Swiss Bay (12) R. Anand 58, 7. Safe Bet (10) I. Chisty 57, 8. Velvet Rose (9) H. Rahul 57, 9. Golden Cruise (4) Arshad 55, 10. Jamais Vu (7) Chotu Jaiswar 52.5, 11. Oro Plata (6) Irvan 50.5 and 12. Amazing Beauty (2) Shvsnath P 50.
1. SAFE BET, 2. AYAHUASCA, 3. GOLDEN CRUISE

3 RANGANATHITTU PLATE (DIV. III), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. Maybe Forever (8) Rajesh K 62.5, 2. Stars In His Eyes (3) Mark 62, 3. Varcasva (10) S. Shareef 62, 4. Birchwood (9) Kiran Rai 60.5, 5. Donna Rossa (7) T.S. Jodha 60.5, 6. Animal Queen (1) Suraj 60, 7. Morrane Gabriella (12) R.

Pradeep 60, 8. Stari Grad (6) Dhebe 58.5, 9. My Lexicon (11) Nazerul 57.5, 10. Ozark (2) Trevor 57, 11. Hafnium (4) Arshad 56.5 and 12. Divine Retribution (5) Ramandeep Bal 56.
1. OZARK, 2. ANIMAL QUEEN, 3. HAFNIUM
4 H.H. SRI. NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1. Top Striker (10) C. Umesh 62, 2. Gintoki (11) Srinath 58.5, 3. Star Atrium (3) Vipin Kumar 56.5, 4. Lucky Pineapple (9) I. Chisty 54, 5. Wonder Story (8) Adarsh 54, 6. Beat The Odds (4) R. Shiva Kumar 53, 7. Order Order (7) S. Shareef 52, 8. Arak (2) Shvsnath P 51.5, 9. Electricity (5) Trevor 51, 10. Heroine (6) Chotu Jaiswar 50.5 and 11. Naval Glory (1) Shiva Kumar 50.
1. GINTOKI, 2. ELECTRICITY, 3. LUCKY PINEAPPLE

5 MAHARAJA'S CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. My Opinion (3) A. Imran 60, 2. Psychic Force (7) Zervan 60, 3. Kambaku (6) Srinath 57, 4. Star Handsome (8) Suraj 57, 5. Mr Baron (5) Darshan 57, 6. Steinlight (1) N. Jodha 56, 7. Script Writer (4) Arshad 54.5 and 8. Shesmyscript (2) Trevor 54.5.
1. PSYCHIC FORCE, 2. MR HANDSOME, 3. SHESMYSRIPT
6 HAVERI PLATE (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Imitation Game (8) Madhu Babu 60, 2. Australis (4) Trevor 59.5, 3. Super Smart (3) Suraj 59.5, 4. Standout (2) Srinath 57.5, 5. Starry Wind (7) Zervan 57, 6. Wild Wild Angels (6) Vaibhav 56.5, 7. Aaron The Baron (1) Antony 56, 8. Reanna (9) Dhebe 56 and 9. Masada (5) Arshad 55.5.
1. STANDOUT, 2. SUPER SMART,

3. AUSTRALIS
7 RANGANATHITTU PLATE (DIV. III), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Amazing (12) J. Paswan 60, 2. Princezaem (8) T. S. Jodha 59.5, 3. Aerospeed (6) Nazerul 59, 4. Chamarel (7) Janardhan P 59, 5. Incredible Star (11) Sai Kumar 59, 6. Sadaqat (10) Antony 59, 7. Habanero (3) A. Imran 58.5, 8. Industrialist (5) Suraj 58.5, 9. She's Superb (4) S. Shiva Kumar 58.5, 10. Engelberg (9) N. Jodha 58, 11. Ruler Of Nation (2) Jagadeesh 57 and 12. Paradiso (1) Arshad 55.5.
1. SADAQAT, 2. HABANERO, 3. INDUSTRIALIST
Day's best: **THE CORPORAL**
Double: **OZARK – SADAQAT**
JKT: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Cosmic Ray runs to glory in 1000 Guineas

MYSURU: S. Attaollahi-trained Cosmic Ray (Suraj up), won the Raghulal Mysore 1000 Guineas, the first classic event of the season held here on Thursday (Sept 19). The winner is owned by United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd.
Cosmic Ray was racing in a handy second position till the home stretch when Suraj, who ran a well-judged race, skillfully manoeuvred the mount near 300m to gallop past favourite Thailand and take the honours in a course record time of 1m, 33.65s.
1 S. HAJEE MEMORIAL PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25: HONEY TRAP (John) 1, Swiss Tigress (Rajesh K) 2, Senator (Ramandeep Bal) 3 and Blackhawk (S. Shareef) 4. Not run: Jersey Storm. Hd: 5 and Nk. Im, 24.5ls, ₹18 (w), 12, 14 and 19 (p), SHP: 135, THP: 32, FP: 350, Q: 299, Trinella: 1.727 and 516. Favourite: Honey Trap. Owners: M/s. Haider Soomar & Guralp Singh. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

2 SIDAPUR PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: THORITRICE (Chetan K) 1, Cuban Pete (Akshay K) 2, Girl With Pearl (Arshad) 3 and Nagada (Sai Kumar) 4. 3, 4-1/4 and Nk. Im, 22.56s. ₹31 (w), 12, 12 and 16 (p),



REWARDING EXCELLENCE: Raghaven Narayana (proprietor, The Raghulal Company), left, presenting the Mysore 1000 Guineas trophy to S.S. Attaollahi, trainer of Cosmic Ray, and jockey Suraj Narredu in the presence of Mysore Race Club chairman N. Nithyanad Rao, second from left. ■ M.A. SRIRAM

SHP: 32, THP: 45, FP: 52, Q: 26, Trinella: 221 and 185. Favourite: Cuban Pete. Owner: Mr. S.T. Kalappa. Trainer: Azhar Ali.

3 S. HAJEE MEMORIAL PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25: ULTIMATE POWER (Darshan) 1, Desert Angel (Noornabi) 2, Spir-

itualqueen (N. Jodha) 3 and King Star (Madhu Babu) 4. Not run: Legend Is Back and Bazinga. 4-1/4, 2-1/2 and 3/4. Im, 24.89s. ₹20 (w), 13, 12 and 23 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 72, FP: 58, Q: 39, Trinella: 295 and 157. Favourite: Ultimate Power. Owners: M/s. Sharath M. Narayana, Subash Baliga, Rajesh Baliga & Girish Baliga. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

4 ORIGINAL VEL B. ASHOK KUMAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: TURF LEGEND (C. Umesh) 1, Brabourne (Kiran Rai) 2, Stormy Atlantic (Chetan G) 3 and Magnum Opus (Chotu Jaiswar) 4. 2, 1/2 and Snk. Im, 09.47s. ₹93 (w), 26, 25 and 14 (p), SHP: 56, THP: 53, FP: 1.714, Q: 777, Trinella: 4.489 and 1,603. Favourite: Stormy Atlantic. Owner: Mr. A.K. Jaiswal. Trainer: Rakesh.

5 GOOL & SOLI POONAWALLA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 60 & above: KING T'CHALA (Yash) 1, Castaway (Darshan) 2, Air Command (Antony) 3 and Gran Paradiso (Srinath) 4. 3/4, Lnk and 2-1/2. Im, 09.89s. ₹67 (w), 21, 20 and 21 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 52, FP: 789, Q: 539, Trinella: 2,102 and 879. Favourite: War Hero. Owner: Mr. V. Satish Kumar. Trainer: Fazal Ul Rehman.

6 RAGHULAL MYSORE 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-Y-O FILIES, (TERMS): COSMIC RAY (BURDEN OF PROOF-CORSICAN GAL) SURAJ 1, Abir (Win Legend-Eastern Summit) Neeraj 2, Lady Of Luxury (Varenar-Oh So Romantic) Srinath 3 and Thailand (Top Class-Immortal Story) Trevor 4. 3-3/4, 1-1/4 and 2-1/4. Im, 33.65s (record time). ₹50 (w), 16

and 26 (p), SHP: 52, THP: 32, FP: 285, Q: 180, Trinella: 1,103 and 358. Favourite: Thailand. Owner: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.
7 SIDAPUR PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: DEFENDER (A. Imran) 1, Decisive (Nazerul) 2, Scarlet Princess (Sai Kiran) 3 and Cavarozzi (C. Umesh) 4. 3-3/4, 3/4 and 1-1/4. Im, 23.37s. ₹15 (w), 11, 25 and 14 (p), SHP: 75, THP: 41, FP: 93, Q: 108, Trinella: 609 and 189, Exacta: 1,611 and 395. Favourite: Defender. Owners: Mr. Hemant Dharaidharka, Mrs. Anneka Darashah & Mr. M.V.M.G. Appa Rao. Trainer: Neil Darashah.
8 T. DOUGALL MEMORIAL PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: VIJAYA ARJUN (C. Umesh) 1, Eudora (Irvan) 2, Veni Vidi Vici (T.S. Jodha) 3 and Momotaro (Madhu Babu) 4. Not run: Even Money and Star Holiday. 2-1/2, 4 and 3. Im, 36.46s. ₹30 (w), 14, 31 and 17 (p), SHP: 99, THP: 42, FP: 3.289, Q: 1,037, Trinella: 3,539 and 1,517, Exacta: 1,271 and 545. Favourite: Tashkent. Owners: Vijaya Empire Farm Pvt Ltd & Mr. Raj Sharma. Trainer: Rakesh. Jackpot: ₹40,025 (12 tkts.); Runner-up: 2,339 (88 tkts.); Treble (i): 300 (two tkts.); (ii): 670 (carried over); (iii): 390 (22 tkts.).

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IN BRIEF



Dust cloud from collision triggered Ice Age: study

WASHINGTON
Scientists have found that dust spawned by a gigantic collision in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter 400 million years earlier triggered an Ice Age on Earth that ushered in a significant increase in marine biodiversity. The research was published in *Science Advances*. REUTERS



Amazon to film *LoTR* series in New Zealand

WELLINGTON
Amazon has announced that it will film its upcoming television series *The Lord of the Rings* in New Zealand, marking a return of the orcs, elves and hobbits to the country they became synonymous with over the course of six movies directed by Peter Jackson. The studio said pre-production has already started. AP



Holy hand-grenade up for grabs at film auction

LONDON
Jurassic Park dinosaur skulls, a Star Wars stormtrooper helmet and Monty Python's holy hand-grenade are among movie memorabilia going under the hammer in London this month at an auction that organisers expect to exceed £6 million pounds. Also on sale will be Jack Nicholson's axe from *The Shining*. REUTERS

Catch a cold and help scientists make new vaccines

Under a new model, volunteers will be infected with viruses or bacteria

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is close to finalising three projects worth ₹135 crore, involving Indian and European scientists, to develop new influenza vaccines.

What will make these projects unique is that they involve a Controlled Human Infection Model (CHIM): volunteers who take part in trials will be infected, under expert supervision, with infectious viruses or bacteria. Such studies, which are being employed in vaccine development in the United States, the United Kingdom and Kenya, are being considered in India.



Two sides: The Controlled Human Infection Model is useful but brings with it ethical challenges. •ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

A CHIM approach will speed up the process whereby scientists can quantify whether potential vaccine candidates can be effective in people and identify the factors that determine why some vaccinated people fall sick and others do not. The risk in such trials is that intentionally infecting healthy people with an active virus and causing them to be sick is against medical ethics. It also involves putting human lives in danger.

Ethics and guidance
By November, experts in vaccine development, social scientists and bio-ethicists are expected to prepare, with the DBT's support, a

guidance document that will elaborate upon the circumstances under which CHIM trials may be conducted, facilities needed, the profile of potential volunteers, the informed-consent forms they would need to sign and the

rules governing clinical trials in India. The influenza trials will be performed outside India, but what we are hoping to get out of this is learning," said Gagandeep Kang, Director, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute of India (THSTI). Scientists at the THSTI are involved in establishing protocols for the trials.

Intestinal bugs too
Rather than influenza trials, India would likely develop CHIM protocols to study bacterial or enteric viruses (residing in the intestine) such as cholera or typhoid, said Professor Kang. If successful, these would serve to create back-ups to the existing cholera and typhoid vaccines. Experience with CHIM could help to create clinical investi-

gators trained in vaccine development.

The Hyderabad-based biotech company, Bharat Biotech, relied on a CHIM approach to establishing that its conjugate typhoid vaccine – while already licensed in India – was effective in a large population. With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the international consortium GAVI, the vaccine's potency was evaluated by infecting human volunteers at Oxford University in the U.K. with a typhoid parasite. The results encouraged scientists to test the vaccine in Nepal, Bangladesh and Malawi among 1 lakh children. The vaccine was over 80% protective when tested on the field, claimed Andrew Pollard, leader of the UK vaccine

trials and professor at Oxford University. The findings are to be published in a forthcoming issue of the peer-reviewed *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Vaccines traditionally are made of a weakened form of a disease-causing virus or bacteria and injected into the body to coax the immune system into making antibodies that create immunity against future infection. Years of vaccine development has shown that frequently vaccines that work in small groups of people may not always work in large populations, or those that are effective in one country may not be in another. CHIM models help vaccine-makers decide whether they should go ahead with investing in expensive trials.

UNICEF warns of emerging threats that young people face

Climate change, mental illness, misinformation are listed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Protracted conflicts, the worsening climate crisis, a rising level of mental illness among young people, and online misinformation are some of the most concerning emerging global threats to children, cautions UNICEF.



Young people are grappling with new challenges.

In an open letter issued by the organisation's executive director Henrietta Fore marking 30 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF sounds the alarm on major growing and future challenges facing children.

The letter outlines eight growing challenges for the world's children including prolonged conflicts, pollution and the climate crisis, a

decline in mental health, mass migration and population movements, statelessness and online misinformation.

"The children of today, are facing a new set of challenges and global shifts that were unimaginable to your parents," writes Ms. Fore.

"Our climate is changing beyond recognition. Inequality is deepening. Tech-

nology is transforming how we perceive the world. And more families are migrating than ever before. Childhood has changed, and we need to change our approaches along with it."

The letter also expresses concern that the majority of children will grow up as natives of a digital environment saturated with online misinformation. For example, so-called 'deep fake' technology uses artificial intelligence techniques to create convincing fakes of audio and video content, relatively easily.

The letter warns that an online environment where truth can become indistinguishable from fiction has the potential to totally undermine trust in institutions and information sources.

Race begins for international Emmys

Sacred Games, *Lust Stories* and *The Remix* from India receive nominations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Netflix's India Original series *Sacred Games*, anthology film *Lust Stories* and Amazon Prime Video's *The Remix* have received nominations for the International Emmy Awards.

The second season of *Sacred Games*, starring Saif Ali Khan and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, has been nominated in the best drama category alongside Brazil's *Contra Todos* (Season 3), Germany's *Bad Banks* and U.K.'s *McMafia*, which also features Siddiqui in a key role.

Anurag Kashyap and Nee-raj Ghaywan directed the second season of *Sacred Games* while Vikramaditya Motwane served as a showrunner. Kashyap, who shared the news on his Instagram page, was also one of the directors of *Lust Stories*



Show time: A still from *Sacred Games*. •NETFLIX

with Zoya Akhtar, Dibakar Banerjee and Karan Johar.

Lust Stories has been nominated for the best TV movie/mini series with Brazil's *Se Eu Fechar Os Olhos Agora*, Hungary's *Trezor* and Australia's *Safe Harbour*.

Actor Radhika Apte, who features in the *Lust Stories* segment directed by Kashyap, is competing in the best

performance by an actress category with Jenna Coleman for *The Cry*, Marjorie Estiano for Brazil's *Sob Pressao 2* and Marina Gera for Hungary's *Orok Tel*.

The Remix is competing in the non-scripted entertainment category with nominees from Argentina, Belgium and the U.K.

Nominees this year span 21 countries across 11 category

ries with Brazil and the U.K. leading the list. Other countries with more than one nod include Germany, Australia, Belgium, Argentina, Hungary and India.

"The diversity, geographic spread and quality of this year's nominees is a testament to the increasing wealth of outstanding television being created on a global scale," Bruce L. Paisner, president and CEO of the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, said on Thursday.

"What a day. 3 Emmy Nominations. 1. *Lust Stories* 2. *Sacred Games* 3. *Radhika Apte*," Kashyap shared on Instagram, tagging International Emmy, Netflix and other collaborators.

The 47th International Emmy Award ceremony will be held on November 25 in New York.

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FRIDAY REVIEW

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K.V. SRINIVASAN

Stars of Dhrupad

The Gundeche Brothers on how they have taken the deeply traditional form to the world **Pages 4 & 5**

INSIDE



Conjoined by guilt

In "Tara", directors Sohaila Kapur and Divya Arora delve into devious forms that patriarchy can take in our society

P3



'It's a great medium of change'

Sushama Deshpande, well-known for her play on Savitribai Phule, on how she uses the stage for social reform **P6**



Walk on the wild side

Ahead of the PSBT's Open Frame 2019, we look at two films that celebrate personalities who dared to go against the grain **P8**

<https://t.me/towardstomorrow>



Complementing each other Namrrta Raai and Vishal Krishna

Countless emotions, one goal

Kathak danseuse Namrrta Raai brought out the essence of Gita Govinda through an elegant production

MADHUR GUPTA
.....

Attributed to the 12th-century Indian poet Jayadeva, the Gita Govinda extols through its eight verse pieces known as ashtapadis the relationship between Krishna and the gopis of Vrindavan, in particular Radha. The work delineates the love of Krishna for Radha, his faithlessness and subsequent return to her, and is widely taken on its symbolic metaphor value of the human soul's straying from its true allegiance but ultimately returning to the source who created it.

Rhythm Society for Performing Arts too attempted with much vigour to celebrate the life and times of the Lord of the Universe through their production titled 'Gita Govinda - The Musical: An eternal love song of Krishna'. Created by Pt. Udhai Mazumdar and based on Pandit Vinay Mohan Sharma's Hindi translation of the epic poem, this particular production was replete with English narrations and Hindi songs.

Kathak danseuse Namrrta Raai who played the part of Radha and spearheaded this collaborative presentation said, 'Pt. Udhai Mazumdar ji is not only the creator of this project but also my guru from whom I have been learning the intricacies of laya and tala for more than a decade. 'Gita Govinda' is one of his most beloved projects which he created way back in 2006 and was originally performed by my guru Late Dr. Madhukar Anand ji. It later became one of my favourite projects as the epic goes through all human emotions and is full of spirituality.'

The production was a spectacle to watch with group renditions on popular music, extravagant sets, and Namrrta looking resplendent in the golden attire designed by Sandhya Raman.

Vishal Krishna, a vivacious Kathakar of the current generation, played the role of Krishna beautifully. His inherent charm was on display but one missed his regular technically-rich performance style.

The production sought to bring forth the 'abhinaya paksh', which is often found to be missing in contemporary Kathak scenario. Namrrta commented, "Our 'Gita Govinda' project is a blend of abhinaya and technical Kathak repertoire. It explores countless dispositions such as jealousy, sorrow, repentance, seclusion, yearning, love, peace, obsession, possession, ego, and ecstasy which one can't enact without using the complete Kathak repertoire."

The production chose the linear narration of Gita Govinda with ashtapadis in their Hindi translations like that of Hari Riha Mughda, Lalita Lavanga Lata, Sakhi He, Priye Charushile, and Kuru Yadunandana, amongst others. The usage of vernacular dialects, Kathak's open ended technique, and the lokdharmik treatment of the subject gave the entire presentation a rustic feel, which helped it reach out to the common audience. The voiceover artist's correct pronunciation of the original Sanskrit verses ensured that the connoisseurs don't lose out on the experience.

Rising to the challenge

While sarod exponent Debasmita Bhattacharya impressed with her clarity of technique and sensitive approach, Hindustani vocalist Sawani Shende Sathaye presented a melodious blend of Kirana and Gwalior styles

MANJARI SINHA
.....

Srijan, synonymous with excellence and professionalism in Odissi dance and music, hosted a seven-day festival of music and dance, featuring some of the finest musicians and dancers at the Ravindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar.

Ratikant Mohapatra, the versatile son and disciple of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra and the present director of Srijan, once again brought a selection of strikingly gifted young musicians. Debasmita Bhattacharya, the young sarodia of the Senia Shahjahanpur Gharana, for instance, played raga Durga with beauty and grace. Initiated into sarod playing by her father Debashish Bhattacharya, himself a disciple of Pt. Budhdhev Dasgupta, Debasmita was meticulously trained as a scholar of ITC-SRA under the tutelage of Dasgupta and excelled as an A grade artiste of the ITC Sangeet Research Academy. She has collaborated with London Philharmonic Orchestra and worked on cross-cultural musical initiatives.

The detailed alaap-jod in raga Durga gave the evening a tranquil air with Debasmita worshipping the deity with the choicest swar-sangatis bringing out the essence of the pentatonic raga. The clarity of technique and her sensitive approach continued through the slow Teentala composition created by her Guru, the drut Ek-tala bandish in medium tempo and the drut Teentala composition leading to the culminating Jhala. Her creative expressions underlined the fact that Debasmita is an outstanding vocalist as well. The tabla accompaniment by Sandeep Ghosh was equally brilliant especially



Scintillating music Sandip Ghosh with Debasmita Sarod; (below) Sawani Shende Sathaye

responding to the sawal-jawab sequence leading to the superfast but most tuneful jhala.

She was all set and about to play a short piece in Manjh Khamaj when a discerning guru in the audience asked her, "Could you play the Pilu composition of Radhu Babu (Pt. Radhika Mohan Maitra), if you have learnt it?" She immediately retuned the instrument and obliged with the challenging composition with a highly personalised touch. This spoke of her in-depth training on one hand and the indubitable command over her instrument.

The trio of flute by Paras Nath, mandolin by U. Rajesh and violin by Deepak Pandit on the second evening, was a scintillating fare of distinctive sounds merging into a common theme. Sarangi solo by Sabir Khan on the third evening had the perfume of his father and guru Ustad Sultan Khan, when he played raga Vachaspati, accompanied by Ishan Ghosh an equally brilliant tabla player, the gifted grandson of Pt. Nikhil Ghosh and trained under his versatile father Nayan Ghosh.

Hindustani vocal recital by Indrani Mukherjee, groomed under gurus like Pt. Arun Bhaduri, Vidushi Purnima Chaudhuri and Vidushi Manju Sundaram, regaled the audience with vilambit and drut khayals in raga Kedar and a semi classical offering in Pilu.

Soothing performance

The Sanskriti Foundation in collaboration with the In-

dia International Centre (IIC) presented Sawani Shende Sathaye from Pune, the recipient of the Sanskriti-Madhobi Chatterji Memorial Fellowship. Trained under her grandmother Kusum Shende, a noted vocalist of Kirana Gharana and her father Dr. Sanjeev Shende, disciple of Vidushi Shobha Gurtu, Sawani was further groomed under Vidushi Veena Sahasrabuddhe, a reputed artiste of Gwalior Gharana. Her gayaki reflects a melodious blend of Gwalior and Kirana styles.

Accompanied on tabla by Pt. Vinod Lele and on harmonium by Dr. Vinay Mishra, Sawani opened her performance with the popular evening raga Puriya-Kalyan. The bada Khayal set to vilambit Ek-tala "Aaj ki saanjh sajavo sab mil aangan dwar..." was a beautiful composition of Pt. Ramashtay Jha, rendered with a tightly trained focus on pitch. The gradual alaap-barhat and the bol-alaap with a clear diction proceeded to the aakar and boltaans giving way to the famous Manrang Bandish in Teentala "More ghar aaja Meet Piharwa..." and the concluding Tarana composed by her guru Vidushi Veena Sahasrabuddhe, had cascading taans rendered with effortless ease.

Next came a rare ragamala composed by Pt. Bhola-nath Bhatt in drut Ek-tala, comprising 19 different ragas, opening with Hindol and concluding with Kharaharapriya. The beauty of the composition was that the name of every raga had the notation of its own swa-

ras, which obviously kept changing with the names of each of the component raga. Sawani first rendered the whole bandish in one go and then elaborated upon each of the raga that took its turn one after the other. Sawani not just did justice to each raga but also enjoyed the challenge, before concluding with a Dadra in Pilu, where the romantic touches of harmonium and concluding laggi of tabla added extra charm.

A rare duet

The Aarambh Series of Raza Foundation showcased a rare jugalbandi of Hindustani vocal and saxophone, featuring Shubhra Talegaonkar and Priyank Krishna, two promising young talents from Agra. Coming from families of professional musicians, Shubhra is trained under her father Pt. Keshav Talegaonkar and Priyank under his father Pt. Ramkrishna, who is a renowned clarinet and flute player with the All India Radio.

Opening with the timely raga Yaman, they rendered the bada khayal set to vilambit Ek-tala, a chhota khayal and tarana in medium and drut Teentala, respectively. It was a delight to listen to a western instrument like saxophone adopting the Hindustani classical music. Priyank showed splendid grasp on the instrument. The duet concluded with 'Kesariya Balam...', the popular Rajasthani maand, although the initial alaap sounded like Mishra Khamaj. Suraj Nirvan ably accompanied the duo on tabla.

Conjoined by guilt

In “Tara”, Sohaila Kapur and Divya Arora delve into the devious forms that patriarchy can take in our society

DIWAN SINGH BAJELI

Mahesh Dattani’s award winning play “Tara”, presented at India Habitat Centre recently under the joint direction of seasoned stage director Sohaila Kapur and Mumbai-based actor Divya Arora, was a tour de force that deeply disturbed, shocked and anguished the audience.

An outstanding Indian playwright writing in English, the dominant thematic elements of Dattani’s plays are gender discrimination, child sexual abuse, communal frenzy and sexual preferences in the context of changing metropolis outlook.

Non-linear form

Sohaila and Divya directed “Tara” in original English version with remarkable sensitivity. Using minimal stage properties, the directors have ingeniously used the acting space. Since the narrative structure is non-linear, the dramatic action mostly takes place in flashback with action shifting to different locales and from present to the past and vice versa. Finely tuned, the production acquires momentum steadily, moving towards the point of crisis where the outrageous family secret is revealed.

The play opens with the entry of the narrator who occupies his position downstage right. In a tense mood, he is working on a script, revealing his emotionally tumultuous life, his dysfunctional family. The space is faded out and the focus is on his family, his childhood and adolescent life back home in India. We meet the family members – worried father, mother, trying to suppress her feeling of guilt, Tara,



Engrossing tale A scene from the play; Sohaila Kapur ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

who is confined to a wheelchair, and her twin brother Chandan and their neighbour Roopa, an adolescent girl.

The mother is obsessed about the physical condition of her daughter Tara. We come to know that the play is about the life of conjoined twins who are separated after performing a major surgery to separate the twins. After the surgery, the twins survive. However, Tara is reduced to a stage where she will remain confined to a wheelchair all her life, while her brother Chandan is physically normal with slight limp while walking. The operation has made the relationship between the parents bitter.

Mother’s sacrifice

The mother is fanatically concerned about the daughter and the father is desperate to see that Chandan grows up as a successful man to look after the family business. But the twins are emotionally attached to one another.

Chandan longs to stay with his sister all day at home reflecting deep emotional connection between the sister and the brother. In the encounter between father and son, father’s prejudice against the daughter is clearly manifested. The mother, unable to bear the plight of Tara, bribes a teenager who is a neighbour, to give company to the alienated Tara

and be her friend.

Meanwhile Tara’s condition deteriorates with multiple organ complications. The doctor attending on her recommends kidney transplant. Despite opposition by family, the mother donates her kidney that is transplanted to Tara. After the kidney transplant, Tara comes home and is welcomed but she is sad not to see her mother at home. There is a sense of mystery where the mother has gone. Later, the mother’s tragic fate is revealed.

Forceful separation

The playwright has imaginatively revealed the secrecy about the forceful separation of conjoined twins by a surgeon. In an emotional outburst, the father discloses that Tara would have led a normal life if the surgeon would not have amputated her leg and transplanted it to Chandan to enable the male child to lead a normal life at the cost of his sister’s. To undertake such an heinous act which is blatantly against medical ethics, the surgeon was bribed by the father of the mother who was a rich and influential person and Tara’s mother was complicit in this abhorrent act. This disclosure left an atmosphere of gloom and doom; the brother feeling guilt leaves for England.

The play has several vital strands – the dark and inhu-

man view of patriarchal society and the blatant violation of medical ethics by the surgeon. The play also indicts the hypocrisy and insensitive attitude of society towards differently-abled community. The playwright eschews attempt to give moral sermons.

The highlight of the production is the casting of Divya Arora as Tara. Divya herself is differently-abled in real life. This is an event where real life and art meet creatively to create a new form of realism. Divya delivers her lines with inner conviction, revealing her resoluteness and will power to face a hostile world. At the end of the show, she is given a standing ovation.

Sunit Tandon as the surgeon who operated on the twins remains seated upstage, frequently brought in to focus to elucidate the doctor’s version in a voice marked by fine theatrical elocution. His presence enhances the value of the production. Kavita Seth as the guilt obsessed mother of Tara, Nikunj Wadhawan, as the twin brother of Tara and Jimmy Hasija as the distressed father of the twins create striking portraits of their characters. Sachin Khurana, as adult Chandu living in London under the pseudo name of Dan, is attempting to atone his guilt sustains the intensity of his inner conflict and anguish until the end.

Melodious confluence

Pandit Ronu Majumdar and Vidwan R Kumaresh’s displayed effortless felicity during their jugalbandi in Delhi

C S PANCHAMAKESAN

Gerard Behague in his book, “Performance Practice: Ethnomusicological Perspectives” describes jugalbandi as a duet of two solo musicians. About 75 years ago Pt Ravi Shankar and Ustad Ali Akbar Khan teamed together to forge two different instruments of Hindustani music to sow seeds of contemporary jugalbandi. Jugalbandhi has since then evolved as a very popular classical music form with many variations featuring Carnatic and Hindustani music with tabla and mridangam as accompaniment.

Snehalata Memorial Foundation, established in Odisha, has spread its wings to Capital. They recently organised Shudh Dhvani, their second annual music and dance festival Triveni Kala Sangam, Delhi. The fest featured two doyens of Hindustani and Carnatic music in a jugalbandhi of wind and string. Pandit Ronu Majumdar on flute and Vidwan R Kumaresh on violin are a formidable combination with perfect understanding of each other which is essential to the structure of jugalbandi.

Their performance was notable for harmony and

synchronisation. A great confluence of music emanated from the stage with each complimenting the other. The concert, auspiciously, started with raga Hamsadwani and the song was, obviously, “Vatapi Ganapathim Bhaje”. The effortless felicity



with which both the maestros performed resulted in a symphony of great music. It was amazing to listen how Ronu Majumdar has amalgamated and synthesised the notes from the flute to merge with the melody that the fiddling monk weaves with his bow and strings.

While the audience was getting ready for the main raga of the evening, Majumdar with a radiantly mischievous smile blew away the rasikas by extemporaneously playing a hint of raga Bahudari and the Pallavi lines of famous Thyagaraja composition “brOva bhArama raghurAma”. A surprised Kumaresh cheerfully echoed and responded “Bhuvanamelaa nee”. It was absolute delight. What followed next was a languid and meditative aalap of raga Charukesi. The flute and violin joined in a mellifluous collaboration and the grandeur of the raga with kaleidoscopic vibrant colours of Carnatic and Hindustani hues were in full flow. The tanam that followed was scintillating. The pallavi was unique as it was Swarakshara pallavi where the swara and sahitya are one and the same. Charukesi is 26th Melakarta raga in Carnatic music and it is a sampoorana raga with all the seven notes. Therefore, the pallavi flowed from flute and violin like a spontaneous overflow of beautiful music in swara and akshara.

Trichy Harikumar on mridangam and Pandit Tanmoy Bose on tabla provided great support and embellished the concert. The success of jugalbandi can be measured by the fact that often mridangam accompanied the flute and tabla accompanied the violin. Their tani was outstanding, though the mridangam was a tad loud whereas tabla was brilliantly subtle.

‘There are no overnight stars in classical music’

In a candid conversation, the Gundecha Brothers discuss the challenges of experimenting within the classical idiom

SHRINKHLA SAHAI

It is not a regular stage setting. At the baithak-style ambience at IAQ in Mehrauli, the audience alternates between gazing at the Qutub Minar in the distance, and the sky above. Seated under the Banyan tree, on a moonlit night in Delhi, the stars of the dhrupad world present some of their best known compositions. Pandits Umakant and Ramakant Gundecha, better known as the Gundecha Brothers, delve deep into the poetry of the mystic saints, with the same clarity that qualified their thoughts on classical music, stardom, the aesthetics of dhrupad and innovative pedagogy, in a conversation earlier in the day.

“Jheeni jheeni beeni chadariya’ is a popular verse of Kabirdas that has been composed and sung by several masters, in many different genres - khayal, folk music or semi-classical. We thought about presenting it in the dhrupad shaili.” Over two decades ago, the maestros had performed their interpretation of the couplets of saint-poet Kabir, in the dhrupad style. It was fresh, different, and blazed a new trail in the presentation of the age-old classical form of dhrupad along with an expansion of its content repertoire. Amid mixed responses of harsh criticism from purists and undiluted adulation from audience, the Gundecha Brothers discovered their musical identity. “The challenge of presenting this poetry in the Dhrupad genre was to keep the grammar and aesthetics of dhrupad intact within the composition,” recalls Umakant.

Sharing the risks of experimenting within the classical idiom, Ramakant says, “Dhrupad is known to be a deeply traditional gayaki, so to do something new at that time in the 1980s and 90s meant inviting criticism and opposition. Orthodox



This is part of the cycle of an artist's life – a period of absolute self-confidence, followed by phases of self-doubt, instability, struggle, where one starts questioning one's life decision to be an artist!

Pt. Ramakant Gundecha



Enduring bond Pandits Ramakant and Umakant Gundecha in performance at Under the Banyan Tree event in Delhi ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

musicians and connoisseurs initially gave us a lot of flak for these explorations. They had full faith in dhrupad, but didn't believe in us, that we could do justice to the genre. At the same time we had a tremendous response from the rasikas. That kept us going. We did not allow the criticism to pull us down.”

Journey through jugalbandi

While their eyes might be closed as they immerse themselves in the improvisation of words and notes, they are completely tuned in to each other's musical movements. One picks up where the other leaves, giving each other ample space, and later coming together to conclude in unison. The jugalbandi between the brothers is poised comfortably on the understanding of a lifetime spent together. “We were certain from the beginning that we will sing together and even before we started presenting dhrupad, we used to sing together only. In fact, our journey in music started together as youngsters,” Umakant chips in.

Reflecting on the characteristics of a successful and balanced jugalbandi, they opine, “It is important that both the artists get equal space and time to sing. Secondly, in terms of style, they must reciprocate, com-

plement and build on each other's expression. And the most important part is the understanding between the musicians, as human beings,” maintains Ramakant

Learning curve

From their humble moorings in Ujjain, the brothers spent years learning the fundamentals of classical music, encouraged by their supportive father. In 1981, they gave up their regular full-time jobs to travel to Bhopal to learn the intricacies of dhrupad with Dagarbani exponents Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar and Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar.

“Our ‘Bade Ustad’ (Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar) was an exceptional teacher and he was a visionary. Along with music he had deep insight into human nature and psychology. Once a situation arose when we became extremely disappointed that we may not be able to pursue dhrupad and that this is the end of the road for us,” reflects Ramakant. Struggling with difficult circumstances in 1983-84, they found themselves submerged in self-doubt and confusion. “This is part of the cycle of an artist's life - a period of absolute self-confidence, followed by phases of self-doubt, instability, struggle, where one starts question-

ing one's life decision to be an artist! It happens with each and every artist, almost like a rite of passage. It is at that point that our Bade Ustad called us, and said to us, ‘Someday you will be the stars of dhrupad.’ At that time it sounded absurd because the idea of stardom could not be associated with dhrupad which hardly had any audience in those days!” remembers Ramakant. They chuckle remembering the era when they had to explain to organisers what dhrupad was since khayal was the predominant classical form. They also express their gratitude to their gurus, who did not allow them to buckle under the pressure of a challenging life choice.

‘Patience and perseverance’

“There are no overnight stars in classical music, it takes time, patience and perseverance. The guidance and vision of our guru made a huge difference,” states Umakant. In an environment where hardly anyone knew dhrupad, their mentor worked with them to make the presentation of dhrupad attractive and engaging for the audience. Looking back on the process of creating their niche, they say, “We started thinking about the reasons



We were certain from the beginning that we will sing together and even before we started presenting dhrupad, we used to sing together only. In fact, our journey in music started together as youngsters
Umakant Gundecha

behind why dhrupad was heard so less. Why? We started questioning ourselves. How do we split the concert time given to us into a repertoire that audience would find interesting? With our guru's suggestions, we worked on various elements of the concert format to make it more fascinating - diction, pronunciation, sur, laya, taal, poetry, the overall stage presentation of dhrupad was to be revised,” he explains.

With a musical style marked by simplicity and innovation, the Gundecha Brothers started earning recognition among organisers and rasikas. In 1992, they went to the

festival of India in Germany for the first time and the trips grew each year.

“It can be said that dhrupad is more popular than khayal abroad. It is connected with our traditional roots, it has simplicity and depth - this unique combination draws universal appeal. For instance, alaap doesn't use words, it connects with everyone through melody. Historically, another reason could be that Pandit Ravi Shankar has been a known name for the global audience when it comes to Indian music and he used to play the ‘dhrupad ang’ on sitar. So, people are often curious about this dhrupad element. In the 1960s, the senior Dagar brothers also set the stage for dhrupad abroad and maybe the next generation of performers including us reaped the benefits!” opines Ramakant.

Possibilities ahead

The maestros established their institute, Dhrupad Sansthan, in Bhopal following the gurukul mode of imparting training. “The thought behind starting the institute was to take dhrupad beyond the ivory towers to people who belong to the same background as us - non-musical families, people from smaller cities, lower-middle-class families,

those who lack financial support. We started teaching by giving genuinely talented and interested students scholarships. Today, we have students who have quit lucrative jobs and taken the risk to pursue dhrupad. Some of our students are earning their livelihood only through dhrupad, that is a huge shift,” says Ramakant.

For the duo, their latest exploration involves new methods of teaching. Their upcoming book on dhrupad pedagogy would discuss these techniques in detail. They also share the vision of expanding dhrupad to the sphere of more instruments. “Along with Dr Rajshekhar Vyas, a dhrupad instrumentalist, we are collaborating and attempting to bring in more students who can present the dhrupad style on various instruments - flute, saxophone, sitar, sarod, santoor, surbahar, and others,” says Umakant.

As they round off the conversation to focus on the evening concert, the Gundecha Brothers complete each other's sentences, articulating their common vision, “To take dhrupad to the world, that is what we were born to do - as teachers, performers, and lifelong students of this art form!”

Time, and time again

Remembering young mridangam artist T.S. Shriram whose life was cut short two years ago.

ANJANA RAJAN

Time is that unfathomable concept, a force and a mystery, present in movement and in stillness, that rules the mortal world unseen. Like nature, it has its contrasting faces. Among the beautiful ones are the myriad ways of marking time developed by musicians and dancers of every genre. This was the magnetic attraction of time for young Thiruvavur T.S. Shriram, a mridangam artist born, raised and trained in Delhi. In the length of time it takes many to figure out what they want to do with their life, Shriram had excelled at Carnatic percussion, begun a promising career as a stage artist, and also blazed a consistently superlative academic path.

“I noticed that even while talking about something else, his fingers were always moving as if playing the mridangam,” recalls Shriram's guru, the West Delhi-based Kumbakonam N. Padmanabhan. “I haven't seen this in many other students. He would have been a fine artist today had he been given the chance.”

But then time showed its other face. In 2017, Shriram, then employed as a software engineer in Bangalore and hardly 25, met with a motorcycle accident. A life full of promise and achievements was cut short. There was no laya, not summation, only loss, but the ultimate keeper of time brooks no appeal.

“He was an unforgettable student, extremely brilliant. Whatever you taught him, he had the capacity to grasp it immediately and play it,” says Padmanabhan.

This Saturday, Guru Padmanabhan and his disciples along

with other musicians will play a tribute concert to Shriram under the auspices of the Bal Shree Thiruvavur T.S. Shriram Memorial Trust set up by his parents, M.V. Thiagarajan and Santhi Thiagarajan.

In the many competitions organised for young students of classical music, the first prize to Shriram was a given. “He never even got a second prize,” says the guru. The other contestants would be awed by his calibre. “As soon as they saw him, they knew the first position would go to Shriram,” recalls Padmanabhan, who has prepared numerous young percussionists in the Capital over the years. Among other achievements, Shriram was the first of Padmanabhan's disciples to receive the prestigious Bal Shree title instituted by the National Bal Bhawan of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The immense discipline in Shriram's approach owed a great deal to his parents, points out Padmanabhan. “He began learning from me in 1999 (age seven). His father was present in every class. Within a year, I started including him in talavadya presentations. He was very lively.”

Though excelling academically – “I never paid a paisa for school fees,” says Thiagarajan, “he was always exempted as a brilliant student” – Shriram's mind was constantly on his art too.

To give him the best exposure, Thiagarajan, himself trained in Carnatic percussion and a member of Gayathri Fine Arts, made it a practice to organise regular concerts in the Capital so his son and other upcoming youngsters in the city had ample stage opportunities. Guruvayoor Manikandan's

Rasikapriya and Padmanabhan's Talabhakti would collaborate, bringing together students of vocal, violin and mridangam for concerts.

Among the professional artists Shriram has accompanied on the mridangam are Chennai-based Carnatic vocalists Bharat K. Sundar, Erode S. Anantharaman, Brinda Manickavasagam and D.L. Prathochan, and violinists Sudha Iyer, Vittal Rangan and Kaushik Sivaramakrishnan.

Padmanabhan, who guides his students in how to interact with senior artists, notes that Shriram was always quick to call up the musicians with whom he was due to play to find out what they planned to present at the concert. Then he would look up the compositions on the internet and make sure he familiarised himself with every kriti to be well prepared for the concert.

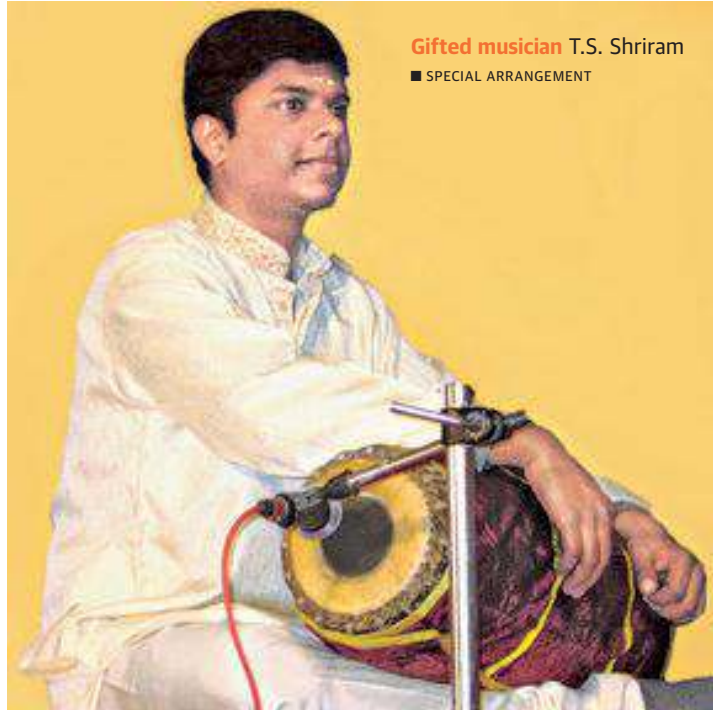
Violinist Delhi R. Sridhar, who too benefited from the willingness of Delhi gurus to pool their resources and provide their students with opportunities for growth, says, “Shriram was undoubtedly a prodigy. He was a confident, fearless, professional and dependable mridangam artist by his 5th grade and I was fortunate to witness his playing in a few concerts where we performed together. What is more commendable is that he achieved excellence being in Delhi and not in South [India].”

Shriram's parents ensured their son was well versed in the melody aspects too, and enrolled him as a vocal student under Padma Nadesan. Additionally, he had opportunities to perform in Chennai during the Season concerts.

Guide and friend he was to his son, but no matter what conventional wisdom says about the parent being the first guru, Thiagarajan says, “Shriram is also one of my gurus. I learnt a lot from him. Whenever I had a doubt I would discuss with him, how to play the tala, the korvai, the mora...”

For the memorial event, Guru Padmanabhan will present a few percussion presentations, starting with his seven-to-eight-year-old students and culminating with the seniors. “Shriram loved talavadya kacheris,” says Padmanabhan fondly. “In all our presentations he would be the lead drummer. That's why I planned this.”

(In remembrance of Thiruvavur T.S. Shriram, Talavadya ensemble featuring disciples of Kumbakonam Padmanabhan followed by violin concert by Delhi R. Sridhar September 21, Aishwarya Mahaganapathy Temple, Keshavpuram, Delhi, 7 p.m.)



Gifted musician T.S. Shriram
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mind Your Yoga

Sustaining positive changes in life

Among other things, be aligned to values and keep the goals realistic

A.G. MOHAN AND DR. GANESH MOHAN



Everyone dreams of being a better person,

of making changes to their lives that will lead them to greater well-being, success, happier relationships. But change always seems to be happening tomorrow, not today!

How can we create sustainable changes? Here's what you can.

- Understand your motivations and find ones that work better for you.

Extrinsic motivations relate to external outcomes – improvements in your career, business, money, status, power and so on. “This will help me make clearer decisions, be more focused at work, achieve my career goals better, improve my relationship with partner.”

Intrinsic motivations relate to internal outcomes – how you feel in your body and mind. For example confidence, energy, contentment, feeling of challenge and mastery. “This will help me manage my blood pressure, reduce mental stress, get sleep.”

Which goal is dominant can depend on your stage in life. Extrinsic and intrinsic goals are not unrelated. That's the idea – the more the motivations you can find, the easier you may find it to stick to the change you want.

- Consider your values. What defines your identity?

If you can align the changes you want with values that you hold about yourself, it will be easier to stick to those changes. For instance, maybe you want to eat more healthfully. Instead of thinking, “I want to lose weight,” you may choose to relate that change to a value you hold. “I respect my body and will offer it what nourishes it well.”

Connecting to this value system will make it much easier for you to refuse that extra helping of dessert the next time, because you will view it as an act of doing good for your body rather than depriving yourself.

- Be flexible and harmonise

with other life activities.

Realistically, no one can do everything at once. Be creative and find opportunities. Do short exercises routines at home in the kitchen and at work at the desk. Repeat your mantra when walking. Practice mindfulness when speaking to people. Watch your breath when you are waiting for a meeting.

- Allow for speed-bumps and have realistic expectations.

Brush aside lapses and keep the focus not on the lost days but on the present day and try to do the practice. A lapse is not a complete relapse! Think of it as variety and flexibility rather than “failure.”

- Take small steps.

This is crucial. Large steps will usually fail after a little while. Even very small micro-changes can build up to big difference in time. Just taking one minute in the morning, afternoon, and evening to relax can be a start for someone who is stressed. It may seem like it's making no difference, but that one minute will become longer in time.

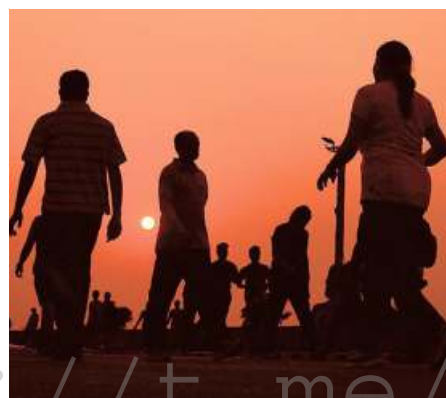
Walking for just a few minutes may be a start for someone who wants to take up jogging.

The key is to take small steps that are sustainable – where you feel that you can easily continue with that little change. This is what allows you to develop and build on them to create new habits.

- Set up support systems.

Attend a group activity. Find friends or family willing to participate. Even a phone call or message from someone can be a good way to sustain motivation.

The writers are yoga practitioners and have authored several books



Theatre Talk

‘It’s a great medium of change’

Sushama Deshpande, well-known for her play on Savitribai Phule, on how she uses the stage for social reform

DEEPA GAHLOT



It has been over 30 years since Sushama Deshpande started performing her celebrated solo piece, ‘Vhay, Mi Savitribai’ (Yes, I’m Savitribai), about the life of the social reformer Savitribai Phule, which has taken her to small hamlets in India as well as international platforms.

The work of Savitribai, wife of Jyotiba Phule – both pioneers in women’s education in Maharashtra, influenced her so strongly that her subsequent work as writer, director and performer, focused on social issues – women’s lives in particular, whether it was working with *tamasha* dancers, sex workers from Sangli, LGBTQ activists in Pune or telling the stories of women *bhakti* poets from Maharashtra, the struggles of Dalit women and exploring the lives of the urban working class through the paintings of Sudhir Patwardhan.

Her work is greatly inspired by Augusto Boal, the Brazilian theatre director and writer, who founded Theatre of the Oppressed, that gave voice and expression to the underprivileged. Already working with rural women, and “searching for means to do it better,” Sushama heard of Boal through friends, and with the help of her friend Betty Bernard (who had interacted with Sushama when working on a book on women in Indian theatre), went to Los Angeles for a three-week workshop (in 1997), to learn his techniques, and how to apply them in the community theatre that she was involved in.

“Augusto has been the greatest positive influence in my life. With him, it was just learning something all the time. If I asked him a question over dinner, he would ask me to put in the form



Sushama reaches out to the common woman and addresses her problems through theatre. She tells hard-hitting stories to drive home her message

of theatre the next day and the answer would appear.”

“Except for ‘Prakaran Pahile’, all my plays centre around a cause, because I believe theatre is a strong medium for creating social change. I don’t expect every member of the audience to be affected, but if even one starts thinking it’s great – it is a slow process. For me there is no debate between art for art’s sake and art for social cause, but I do believe that theatre should not be typical propaganda, there should also be some aesthetic quality to it to have more impact.”

“After a show of ‘Savitribai’ in Uttarakhand, a young teacher came up to me and said, she believed she was a good teacher, but now she would try to be the best; ‘That is my commitment to you,’ she said. At another show, some young girls said that their mothers had seen the play and decided to educate their daughters. So, somebody, somewhere, does take away something from the play. In villages, there is an emotional response to ‘Savitribai’, because their

lives are reflected in it. When I perform in rural areas to an audience of women, I talk to them before the show. I sit on stage and do my make-up, and sometimes wear my sari there too. They relax and watch the performance and discuss their problems with me. “Anyone can do this play in any language... they don’t even have to take my permission, because Savitribai is not my property. Some girls are doing it in Maharashtra, there are Bengali and Gujarati productions of it, I do it in Hindi too. For the last 25 years, I have not had to advertise this play, social organisations like the Azim Premji Foundation, and NGOs schedule shows – there was one I did for women taxi drivers in Delhi – and audiences come through word of mouth.”

Rural flavour

When she felt the need to do something new, she started work on her *tamasha* play, that was eventually titled, ‘Tichya Aaichi Gostha, Arthar Maaza Athavanichi Phad’ (Her Mother’s Story, Or My Own Memories), the story of a *tamasha* dancer and her daughter who wants to stay away from that life. “I watched a lot of *lavni* performances, spent time with the women to get deep insights into their lives.

“The play, ‘My Mother, The Gharwali, Her Maalak, His Wife’ was with sex workers from Sangli. They didn’t know what theatre was like, but the exercise of working with them was an



eye-opener. I did another play, ‘Hum Aur Tum Sab’, which did not have a story, it was just the women talking about their lives.”

With Mumbai-based experimental theatre group Awishkar, Sushama has done plays like ‘Bayaa, Daar Ughad’ (Women, Open The Door) about women poets, ‘Chitragoshti’ (Stories of Paintings) bringing Sudhir Patwardhan’s plays to life, and ‘Aaydaan’ (objects made of bamboo) based on Dalit writer Urmila Pawar’s hard-hitting autobiography. “I am not a formally trained theatre director, so how I arrive at a form to tell a story is not set. I have workshops with actors, we improvise scenes, and you get the form when you are deeply immersed in the process.”

She is now in the midst of planning a workshop in Mumbai, that she calls Actolab. “Participants will learn how to sensitise themselves from the inside. In India, there is a lot of spoon-feeding, showing students what to do. I believe, like Boal did, that they have to think for themselves and understand that every experience, emotion and image can have a different meaning for different people.”

It’s been a while since she has written a new play. “After the film *Ajji*, I want to work with young directors and just act. It might be fun to do that for a change.”

The writer is a critic and columnist

Going Native

Sound of silence

In “Maun”, Suresh Hans has penned a subtle narrative that subverts the concept of morality

SHAFEEY KIDWAI

Beyond a marked disdain for steamy inclination and amorous entanglements with emotional intensity at all levels in the society, it can become an act of endearment in the sight of God. It can put one on the path of deliverance even if he practises a religion that stipulates strict conduct of life and prohibits women from mixing with men freely. It is brilliantly unspooled and creatively explored by a celebrated Hindi novelist Suresh Hans in his recent novel “Maun” (The Silence), published by Bodhi Prakashan, Jaipur.

Rescue act

Layering the tantalising tale of the protagonist Siddharth along with the poignant hues of life, Suresh seeks to convey that the urge for saving a life is a natural longing that defies all restriction, no matter how widely respected they are. Siddharth, sad, emotional, insecure and quick to despair, met with a nearly fatal accident and is rescued by a family of Muslim nomads. The



Nuanced approach Suresh Hans

family, caught in the fury of weather, found him in the unconscious state. The torrential rain prompted the male members to abandon him, but Rukhsana asserted, “Alas! You want to leave behind or kill a living human being. Allah will never forgive you. Let us carry him with us. If we do not make an effort to save him, we will not be able to survive. Animals do not desert their siblings in the hour of peril, only man can do it.”

On Rukhsana's insistence, Siddharth was picked up, but when reached a safer place - the cave - he hardly looked more than an unmoving bundle. The male member went out to rescue the buffalo, and other domestic animals and Siddharth remained unconscious. His deteriorating condition worried Rukhsana, and she decided to employ all possible means to bring him back to life. She took out some herbal oil and started

gently massaging her hands and feet. His body showed signs of feeble improvement, but he was not unable to open his eyes. A chilling cold ran through his body, and it called for immediate action. Rukhsana decided to employ a method which may not have social or religious sanction.

Seeking pardon from Allah, Rukhsana clasped an unconscious Siddharth to her bosom. She kissed him on the lip. She turned utterly unconcerned about the fact that she was brushing her lips against the body of a stranger and the moment of epiphany sparked off life and Siddharth came to senses.

Here, Suresh perceptively tries to connect his readers to the captivating chord of human caring that subverts all barriers. At a time when people tend to repose unconquerable faith in hate and violence, the presence of people filled with generos-

ity and compassion betrays awakening of the soul and the nuanced narrative of Siddharth proves that perusal life of desire and its subsequent abdication is just a ploy to deceive oneself. Siddharth, intrigued by Vasu, Vaishali and Sujata and his intimacy with them unravels the multiple mysteries of the transience of life and the characters live together to fight and lie and seek a sense of joy in promiscuity.

Self-inflicted violence

The title of the novel is very suggestive as Siddharth betrayed by Vaishali and temporarily cold-shouldered by Vasu sought refuge in solitude and silence. His aloofness does indicate self-inflicted violence, and it prevents him from enjoying his passion for music.

Siddharth asks himself, “Is silence deeper than one's heart?” The quietude started percolating down his body. “Noisiness was very audible inside. It was challenging to measure uproar.” Siddharth has no test formula and is being mired in the din. He wants the silence must come out from inside, and he should make a loud noise, but reticence overwhelms him. He wonders why does dead air vibrate with life?

Vasu, Vaishali and Sujata unfailingly manifest rapidly fluctuating human psyche, but Siddharth remained addicted to self-obsession but curiously he doubts everything and repose faith in everything. His dalliances hardly bear desired fruits but reveal no sickness or depravity. Suresh Hans fashions a subtle and soft narrative that subverts the very concept of moral panic.

His nuanced story of denial and anxiety turns aesthetic and meditative, and for this, plaudits await him

Telling Voices

Living between borders

Tashi Aw, a Malaysian writer and author of ‘We, The Survivors’, narrates how his search for stability made him travel from his homeland to another country

SUDHAMAH REGUNATHAN

Literature written by immigrants is catching the imagination of people these days. The works of many Asian writers have been continuously on the best-seller list. One among them is Tashi Aw, a Malaysian writer. His latest book is “We, The Survivors”.

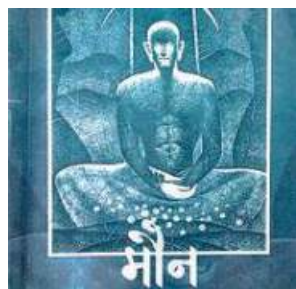
He says that when he looks at someone, the one question that comes to his mind is, “Where is he or she from?” Aw says that it is only when you leave home, you find the answer to this question.

He says, “Asia was poor. Malaysia was a poor country and so at school everyone was obsessed about getting into a good university, getting good grades, and eventually getting a well paying job. No one was encouraged to play or learn the guitar for instance...It was a time when not just the mums were tiger mums but the dads were pretty scary too. The search was for a settled life. That is what my parents wanted for me...to be a doctor or a lawyer. It means security not just from a financial point of view but from a lifestyle point of view... For my parents and grandparents staying in one place brought stability. Today's times is characterised by unsurpassed mobility and more people than ever before are moving borders. The challenge before us to harness this state of swirling cultural influences and see it for its benefits rather than its perils...daring to leave home so that one day you may return with a renewed renegotiated relationships.”

Aw left for England to attend University when he was 18. “I had absorbed that sense of being rootless and disconnected from my parents, I think. Malaysia was where I had grown up, and in a sense, that is all that I had known. So I thought I would return home as soon as I got my degree...”

Then Aw moved to London, “But, London,” says Aw, “like all big cities has a way of accelerating time and now after 20 years I am still here...still trying to work out a way of being Chinese, Malaysian and living in London. Leaving from one country to another changes one's mentality so basically that even the most fundamental questions you take for granted like who you are and where you are from become altered beyond recognition. Some people find it difficult for no matter how compelling your reasons were for leaving home it is always hard to leave that place you call home because that place represents so much...it is what shapes you, your ideas, your beliefs, often your religion. It provides friends, a place in society. In the new place there is fear of immigrants...fear of stealing jobs and so on...”

So why would one migrate? At the heart of this lies a profoundly personal reason: the leaving home provides the freedom to think who you are and where you are from. “An immigrant gets to start from scratch... I am now learning to live in an in-betweenness...” says Aw.



The title of the novel is very suggestive as Siddharth betrayed by Vaishali and temporarily cold-shouldered by Vasu sought refuge in solitude and silence. His aloofness does indicate self-inflicted violence, and it prevents him from enjoying his passion for music.

IN BRIEF



Debapriya Adhikary and Samanwaya

Thumri treat

Sahitya Kala Parishad, part of Delhi government's Art, Culture & Language Department, is presenting the ninth edition of three-day Thumri Festival at Kamani Auditorium, beginning 23 September.

On day one, there will be performances by Devashish Dey, duo performance by Debapriya Adhikary and Samanwaya and Arati Ankalikar. Devashish Dey received his initial

training from Pt. Pashupati Nath Mishra, vocalist of Banaras Gharana. Devashish Dey assimilated influences from three leading gharanas to develop a harmonious style of his own.

The second day will see Pandit Sarathi Chatterjee, Pandit Ganesh Prasad Mishra and AshwiniBhide-Deshpande showcasing their talent. Pt Rajendra Sijuar, Dhanashree Pandit Rai and Pandit Channulal Mishra

Quick Five Ragini Khanna

Independent streak

ATIF KHAN

After her critically acclaimed performance in Shanker Raman's "Gurgaon", actor Ragini Khanna has appeared in recently released Zee5 original "Posham Pa" - a psychological thriller directed by the National Award-winning filmmaker Suman Mukhopadhyay. The film is inspired by real-life events and apart from Ragini, it has Mahie Gill and Sayani Gupta playing pivotal parts. Here she talks about her films, her departure from television roles and why she enjoys humour.

Edited excerpts

Tell us about your new film "Posham Pa"?

It is based on the research done on psychologically disturbed female serial killers by senior journalist Praful Shah and on that basis the story on a psychologically disturbed mother who coerces her daughters into a life of crime was written. Women are worshipped in our country and in films they are shown as a mother figure. Imagining this was a hard task. I was shocked by knowing that something like this exists. I did the film because the purpose was bigger than the film. The director has kept it to the facts and has not allowed viewers to feel the crime. We don't want you to fall in love with these people.

How the experience was different from "Gurgaon" which also had similar treatment?

My paternal family is from Gurgaon. I was jumping with joy when I got it. For me, it was more than a film because it was about societal degradation. I was playing Preet and as she died, it metaphorically represented how love has been put to death there. As a citizen of the world, it was very emotional for me as it was for Shankar (Raman) who spent six years of his life on that project. Getting it released was a huge challenge but when it came on Netflix and Hotstar, people realised its impact. People now say it was ahead of its time but it was not. People were just unaware.

Your image in both the films is a total departure from your television roles...

I intend to bring content and even on television, I was doing content rich work. I was always been seen as a happy and bubbly girl but I do not want people to live on a staple diet of a happy go lucky girl. As an artist, I find it very boring.

Most of your family is associated with mainstream films but you are doing independent films...

I am the black sheep of my family. When I discovered the independent circuit, I was amazed by their knowledge. I was not able to do something initially because of my commitments on television. I threw myself into that to learn the language and I understood the world later when I did acting workshops and watched World cinema at the MAMI film festival. I met Vasant Bala for 'Peddlers' but it did not happen. It was around 2014 when I got 'Ghoomketu' but unfortunately it did not release. At that time, people judged me for working with Nawazuddin Siddiqui and even my family asked me why I am not working with some A list actors. I wish I was an outsider because I carried the baggage of my legacy.

There are only a few female actors doing comedy on television

I don't think that humour is gender-biased. We have seen so many actresses who have done comedy such as Bharti and Kavita Kaushik. It's about skill set and comic timing but hosting on television became difficult for me because boys were doing anything in the name of comedy. It was crass humour and buffoonery for me. I can't make fun of people.



Open Frame 2019

Walk on the wild side

Two films that tell us what it means to go against the grain

ANUJ KUMAR

It was her eyes that impressed the irrepressible Satyajit Ray. The eyes that asked a lot of whys and often indulged in daydreaming went on to enchant a generation of cineastes with a variety of roles that veered from the traditional to the glamorous. Much before the phrase beauty with brains became a marketing gimmick, Sharmila Tagore epitomised it in the real sense of the term. Now Umang Sabharwal has come up with "Starring Sharmila", a documentary on the actor who nudged many a stereotype in a patriarchal step up, without making a noise about it. Umang describes her as "casually rebellious" and "extremely intuitive".

Very much like the child-bride she played in "Apur Sansar", Tagore didn't know what was in store for her behind the closed door. But once she entered, Tagore created a niche for herself in the vast space, bit by bit. In "Kashmir Ki Kali", she was a bit wide-eyed in front of a rakish Shammi Kapoor but by the time the two joined hands for "An Evening in Paris", Tagore had a double role, one of which was that of a girl whose moral centre was ambivalent. If Suzy filled the vamp space, Deepa was introduced as a girl who was going to Paris after three-four affairs. Well, it is an eye-opener for many who believe that the Hindi film heroine was liberated only after "Queen".

Ahead of the film, her appearance in a two-piece bikini on the Filmfare, an act that was questioned in the Zero Hour of the Parliament, is part of the industry folklore. Always candid, Tagore admits it was an act of exhibitionism but adds that there



Irresistible charm Stills from "Starring Sharmila" and "Kings of Horror" ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

was no agenda behind it.

As filmmaker and scholar Sohini Ghosh points out in the documentary, unlike her contemporaries, Tagore lived by modern values outside the film set as well. For a long time, the Taj hotel was her second home in Mumbai where she worked from a suite that cost Rs 275 in those days. Coming from a progressive family, with books as her constant companions, Tagore practised liberal values, without making a show of it. "I was a bit wild," she confesses in the film. Perhaps, she was more like the elegant and enigmatic Aparna of "Aranyer Din Ratri". One wonders how she would have reacted to a self-conscious Asim in real life!

Roaring romance

The film also brings out the roaring romance between Tiger (Pataudi) and Tagore with its social implications - how it led to Tagore being almost ostracised on a film set to the role of telephone operators in their love life.

As she started at 13, Tagore had time to engage with the medium and experiment. When she dyed her

hair grey in "Aradhana", she was still in her 20s. Though, by that time, she had Hrishikesh Mukherjee's "Anupama" in her resume, director Shakti Samanta initially didn't see her in the role because of her box office image. It was writer Sachin Bhowmick who pushed her case and Tagore turned a new tide in her career. The box office responded and a Filmfare Award followed.

It spurred interest of new wave directors like Basu Bhattacharya ("Avishkar") and Gulzar in her. The latter first cast her in "Khushboo" where she agreed to do a small role.

The association helped Tagore fine tune her Hindi diction. The two worked again in "Mausam", perhaps her most challenging role. As Chanda and Kajli, she delineated two completely different women, a combination of class and crass. Her effort won her a National Award.

Based on interviews, Umang has turned it into an engaging narrative with sharp editing and telling visuals that take you back in time when an actress was asking for an equal world with a dimpled smile.

In a new light

There is something surreal about the Ramsay universe. The cinema of the supernatural might have been buried at the box office, but there is a league of filmmakers who swear by the Ramsay brothers' brand of subversion. If Shriram Raghavan finds them inspirational, Ashim Ahluwalia draws from the atmospherics of Ramsay films. When many critics feel that there is not

much to read in "Purana Mandir" and "Veerana", directors Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas have come up with a documentary "Kings of Horror" that tries to look beyond the monster with a moll binary of the three dozen B-grade films that F.U. Ramsay and his seven sons produced.

Shyam Ramsay, who directed most of them, passed away this Wednesday. The film is a befitting tribute to his craft. Interestingly, it is scheduled as the opening film of the festival.

Anurag Kashyap who grew up watching back to back shows of "Bandh Darwaza" says everything that is forbidden was there in a Ramsay film. Ashim delves into the atmosphere that such films provided when the so-called mainstream films were focussing only on the plot. Here the hero would walk for three minutes in a graveyard in red colour light. "The red light takes away the contrast, creating a dream-like experience where the difference between day and night diminishes," says the director of "Miss Lovely".

The film talks of the agency that the female characters in such films had. Male characters were often emaciated and the gender equations were not always rigid. "They had different laws which subverted Bollywood norms," says Ashim. According to him, the Ramsays gave a fillip to the independent film movement.

There are interesting anecdotes as how Ajay Agarwal, the scary face of many a Ramsay films, doesn't like to watch his films because there is not much to carry home. Arti Surendranath, whose Bollywood career never took off after her association with the horror genre, shares the experience of shooting under the blood like water coming out of the shower during the shoot of "Purana Mandir". The best comes from an actor who remembers the kings of horror for giving Hindi cinema its most beautiful heroine - Jasmine from "Veerana"! Well, a search for her could spawn another film.

("Starring Sharmila" and "Kings of Horror" will be showcased at the PSBT's Open Frame Festival, 20-24 September, Auditorium, India International Centre, New Delhi.)

